

SATURDAY

The universal question

First of a four-day series. Today: the new secrets of space. Tomorrow: Free poster



THE INDEPENDENT

No 2,924

2 MARCH 1996

(1165) 50p

Mortgage cuts will bring rise in prices

Hope of rate cut is clear sign of recovery

DIANE COYLE and PAUL WALLACE

The prospect of lower interest rates following the recent sharp rise in house prices is the clearest sign yet that a recovery in the housing market is under way for the first time in five years.

After years of gloom, Britain's 16 million home owners face the virtual certainty of lower borrowing costs and rising house prices.

The chances that the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, will cut base rates after his meeting with the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, on Thursday were raised yesterday by news that manufacturing is in recession and inflationary pressures are vanishing.

At the same time a sharp rise in house prices last month gave the clearest sign so far of improved prospects.

Mr Clarke's scope for reducing borrowing costs was also helped by further signs of economic weakness in the US, increasing the likelihood that interest rates will fall across the Atlantic and elsewhere later this month.

London's financial markets regard a quarter-point reduction in the level of base rates to 6 per cent after the forthcoming monetary meeting as a racing certainty. The Bank is thought to be unlikely to object to a third reduction in four months even though Mr George advised delaying January's move.

Lower mortgage rates would almost certainly follow, helping boost the housing market further.

The Treasury said the Chancellor would make his decision on all the evidence. "It doesn't do to focus on one sector of the economy at the expense of others," a spokesman said.

Nevertheless, interest rate hopes took share prices higher yesterday, with the FT-SE 100 index ending just over 25 points higher at 3752.7.

House prices jumped 1.4 per cent in February according to the Nationwide building society's index. This took them to a level 0.9 per cent higher than a year earlier, the first time since

last April that prices have risen year-on-year. The Halifax's index, due on Monday, is also expected to show an increase in prices in February.

"We cannot expect this kind of increase every month, but the housing market is definitely recovering," said Ian Shepherdson, a housing expert at HSBC Markets.

The Nationwide said the trend pointed to a "modest" recovery. A spokesman, Philip Williamson, said: "We are confident that recent signs of improvement will mark the beginning of a moderate but sustained recovery in the market."

A base rate cut would lead to further reductions in the cost of home loans, already at their lowest level for more than 30 years. The Nationwide raised the stakes in the mortgage war by cutting its standard variable mortgage rate to 6.99 per cent just over a week ago. Its competitors are under pressure to follow its example.

Separately, the influential monthly purchasing managers' survey of manufacturing showed industry moving into recession last month. It also reported a sharp fall in the prices index, to its lowest for more than three years. "The contents of the survey are extremely helpful to the Chancellor and make a rate cut odds-on," said Simon Briscoe, a City economist at Nikko Europe.

The purchasing managers' index of manufacturing activity fell below 50 - the dividing line between expansion and contraction - for the first time since November 1992.

In its biggest plunge for four years, the survey's prices index fell from 49.1 to 44.4, the lowest since January 1992. This raised hopes that manufacturers may soon be paying less for their inputs of materials.

The consumer goods industries, which make up almost one-third of manufacturing, were more buoyant than a depressed investment and intermediate goods sector. "The figures for the consumer sector were relatively good," said Peter Thomson, director-general of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply. "The question is whether the rest of the manufacturing sector will follow."

The decline last month was centred in the investment and intermediate goods industries. Deteriorating order books in these sectors swamped a further small pick-up in consumer goods sector.

A further sign of weakness was that the employment index was below the 50 watershed, pointing to job cuts, for the second month running.

Fury at 'disgraceful and insulting' offer to family of woman killed searching for fire victims



Fleur Lombard, whose life has been judged worth £950, and (left) Kevin Lane, whose partner will receive no pension

Blaze heroine Fleur's life is worth just £950

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

The parents of heroine Fleur Lombard, the first female firefighter to be killed on active duty in Britain, will get just £950 compensation for her death, the *Independent* has learned.

Last night Jane Lombard, Fleur's mother, still mourning the death of her daughter last month, was angered by the payment. "This is all very depressing. £950 is not much for a life," she said.

The 21-year-old female firefighter was killed when the roof of a Co-op store in Bristol collapsed as she went into the building to see if shoppers were trapped. Her family has set up a trust fund for the rehabilitation of firefighters in her name.

In a separate case, the common law wife of a part-time Gwent fireman, Kevin Lane, who died fighting a fire two days earlier, will receive no pension because although she was the mother of his 10-year-old son, she was not married to him. The wife, a colleague, Stephen Griffin, who died in the same blaze last month will receive full pension rights. Both men had entered a blazing house at Blaina in the misapprehension that a child was inside.

The Fire Brigades Union has protested to the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, over the "absurd" pension rules and the "disgraceful and insulting" compensation offered to Mrs Lombard. In a letter to Mr Howard, Ken Cameron, leader of the union, registered his "extreme concern" about the deficiencies of the pension scheme which means only married spouses of firefighters killed on duty get payments.

Mr Cameron wrote: "We as a union have campaigned for many decades in order to have

the right of choice about our pension scheme. Individuals who daily risk their lives in order to protect the public are entitled to ensure their partners or other relatives benefit from a scheme to which they have contributed over their service."

He reminded the minister that a working party had been set up on the issue by the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council and that a decision by ministers was "long overdue". The compensation scheme, which is administered by the National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire Brigades, recognises common law spouses. The partners of the two Gwent firemen will get lump sums of around £85,000 each.

Mr Cameron told the *Independent*: "The Prime Minister in the Commons paid his tribute and offered his sympathy to the families. He should now ensure that their nearest and dearest have access to justice and practical help." A spokeswoman for the Home Office said Mr Cameron would receive a full reply to his letter and that the Government was conducting a review of fire service pensions.



Civil servants 'to be punished over Scott'

CHRIS BLACKHURST Westminster Correspondent

Ministers yesterday refused to rule-out disciplinary action against civil servants criticised in the Scott report on arms to Iraq and provoked a bitter Commons row.

They ignored repeated calls from the Opposition to make a statement on yesterday's disclosure in *The Independent* that officials are not in the clear over Scott. Labour MPs were incensed by a Government source saying that while ministers had had their trial and been acquitted - a reference to last Monday's narrow Commons victory in the Scott vote - civil servants had not.

The row erupted as John Marshall, the Tory MP Hendon South, disclosed he had threatened to rebel over Scott in the vote after last Monday's debate but saved the Government from a humiliating defeat because the Prime Minister had told him the

Ulster Unionists were "putting a pistol to his head".

In the Commons yesterday, Shadow public service spokesman Derek Foster, challenged junior trade and industry minister John Taylor, who was sitting opposite him in the chamber for a debate on the whistle-blowers' Bill, to explain the Government's position.

Mr Foster said Mr Taylor was from "one of the departments where civil servants are under threat of disciplinary action, and indeed dismissal" and was "in the best position" to make a statement.

He added: "With no minister taking responsibility, it would be shameful for the Government to try to off-load all responsibility for the Scott report on to civil servants." Mr Taylor said he would report Mr Foster's concerns to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade.

Mr Foster later sent a letter to Roger Freeman, the public

TURN TO PAGE 2

Adams is granted visa for visit to US

COLIN BROWN and DONALD MACINTYRE

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, is to be given a visa for the United States so that he can attend the St Patrick's Day celebrations.

In a move, which will anger sections of the Tory party, President Bill Clinton decided to grant a visa to Mr Adams but to attach conditions which restrict him to a single entry and prevent him raising funds for Sinn Féin.

The decision was confirmed last night by US officials and the White House was due to make a formal announcement later. The officials said the conditions had been imposed as a gesture of condemnation of the IRA's decision to end its 17-month ceasefire. Downing Street would only say last night that the granting of a visa to Mr Adams was "a matter for the US government," which is consistent with the stance taken by the British government over the last two weeks.

This is in sharp contrast to the first granting of a US visa to the Sinn Féin president last year when the British government strongly and publicly opposed.

But British officials have been keen to point out that neither British nor Irish Ministers are at present meeting Sinn Féin and only officials may do so. That carries the clear implication that a meeting between Mr Adams and either the president or the vice-president, Al Gore, would be unacceptable in London.

The relatively "hands off" approach adopted by Whitehall could reflect a resignation in government circles to the prospect that Mr Adams would anyway be granted a visa. But it may also stem from the hope that the US will apply pressure on Mr Adams to secure a restoration of the ceasefire. In that sense, Whitehall may believe that there may even be a benefit in the Sinn Féin president visiting the US.

Nevertheless, the granting of a visa, at a time when Mr Adams has conspicuously failed

to condemn the resumption of the IRA ceasefire, will anger not only the Ulster Unionists but also some prominent Tory backbenchers with an interest in Northern Ireland issues.

David Wilsbire, the Tory MP for Spelthorne, who this week attacked the peace bid by John Major and John Bruton as "appeasement", said last night: "Adams will be going to New York with blood on his hands."

"There have been three deaths in London. He has not condemned the bombings. It raises questions about Clinton's judgement," Mr Wilsbire said.

A ministerial source said: "The backbench will be extremely angry about this. The Government is not very happy with it. He may be banned from fund-raising in the States but that's too late. The money has already fled from the States to Ireland."

The Government was consulted about the visa and is understood to have suggested that there should be conditions placed on it.

Buy The Independent today and get the Independent on Sunday for only 50p

See voucher on page 2

Play Formula 1 Dream Team



Starting tomorrow in the Independent on Sunday

MAGAZINE

Write a children's story and win £2,000

28-page fashion supplement

Dinner party nightmares

WIN DAMON HILLS RENAULT SPIDER See page 22 for token

IN BRIEF

Tougher penalties
The Lord Chief Justice signalled a tough new attitude to death row killers with dramatic increases in the sentences of two convicted men. Page 6

Italian shoot-out
The hunt for an Italian serial killer ended in an orgy of violence as the culprit killed two more people, holed up in a farmhouse with two hostages and, after a shoot-out, then killed himself. Page 9

Today's weather
Cloudy with some rain and a hardy wind. Page 2



section ONE

BUSINESS 17-21 COMMENT 14,15 CROSSWORD 2,28 GAZETTE 16 LEADING ARTICLE 14 LETTERS 14 NEWS 2-12 OBITUARIES 16 SHARES 18 SPORT 22-28 UNIT TRUSTS 17 WEATHER 2

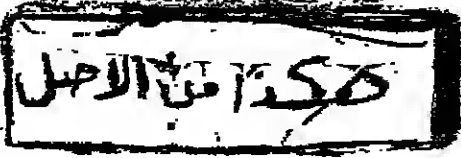
Independent WEEKEND

ARTS 6,7 BOOKS 8-11 CHESS 27 LISTINGS 26 MONEY 22,28 MOTORING 21 PROPERTY 21 REVIEWS 6 SHOPPING 25 TRAVEL 14,19 TV & RADIO 27,28

IAN CHOSE THE LIGHTS OUT OPTION ON VIRGIN UPPER CLASS BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, HAD DRUNK TOO MANY COFFEES.



Upper Class We offer a sleep-suit, duvet, pillow, lights out in the cabin, and decaffeinated coffee. Call 01293 747 500 or see your travel agent. virgin atlantic



INDEPENDENT special offer
ON SUNDAY
Buy it half-price tomorrow and read ...
Why the world seeks the London look
How well do you know your children?
The return of John Travolta

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY
tomorrow for only 50p
Reader's name _____
Address _____
WHOLESALE NAME _____
RETAILER'S BOX NO. _____

To the Reader
Hand the voucher to the newspaper with a copy of this Independent on Sunday 2 March 1996 and pay only 50p (Home Delivery customers have until 31 March 1996 to present the voucher to your newspaper).
To the Retailer
Please accept this voucher as part payment for the Independent on Sunday 2 March 1996 (Home Delivery) plus a 2p handling fee. Please provide your wholesaler's name and your box no. and return the completed voucher to your wholesaler by 3 April 1996. This voucher is not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. It is valid for the Independent on Sunday only.
Offer valid in UK, ROI, Channel Isles & Isle of Man only.
If you have any problems redeeming your voucher, please call (0800) 655 622.
9 506480 100500

IN BRIEF
Animal exporter fined and banned
The animal exporter Roger Mills was fined £1,000 and banned from the road for a year yesterday after being found guilty of dangerous driving at a demonstration in the Essex port of Brightlingsea in May. Animal rights protester Sandra Lister suffered stomach injuries when she was hit by his Land-Rover. Harwich magistrates suspended the sentence pending an appeal by Mills, 54, of Framlingham, Suffolk.

Tories face Commons defeat over divorce

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

The Government was warned it could face a Tory backbench rebellion and a defeat in the Commons if it seeks to overturn the vote in the Lords to give wives who divorce a share in their husband's pension.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, strongly hinted that the Government will seek to drop the measure for pensions splitting, which was forced into the Family Law Bill by Labour peers, and Tory rebels, including former ministers.

Aunt Winterton, one of the Tory MPs opposed to the Bill's main provisions to reform the divorce laws, said she would be prepared to vote for the amendment on pensions splitting to stay in the Bill when it goes to the Commons.

"I have a great deal of sympathy with the amendment. In this change to the divorce law ... the definition of the assets of the couple, the pension does figure very strongly."

"I think the Lord Chancellor should take to heart the decision in the Lords and say that, although this amendment may be flawed, they will do something about it, either by a separate piece of legislation or by something in this Bill."

Although Labour will vote for the Bill in the Commons, it will support the amendment leaving the Government facing the threat of having its water-tight majority wiped out by a backbench rebellion.

Lord Mackay said: "I doubt very much whether anyone is suggesting it [pensions splitting] can be done properly within the timetable of this Bill ...". The issue is being passed to the Secretary of State for Social Security, Peter Lilley, to sort out, but yesterday his department stressed the problems may prove impossible to deal with in the Bill.

The practical difficulties include a three-year delay in putting pensions on the Government computer. The Department of Social Security also said pensions splitting would create a tax advantage, compared with married couples, for those who were divorced; that anomaly would undermine the Government's policy on the family.

The defeat has further undermined the Lord Chancellor's standing with Tory MPs, who are opposed to the main thrust of the Bill to reform the divorce laws. One Tory MP said: "The whole thing is a disaster. He ought to scrap it all."

There is no immediate threat to the Lord Chancellor's position, but the Bill is proving a thorn in the Government's side.

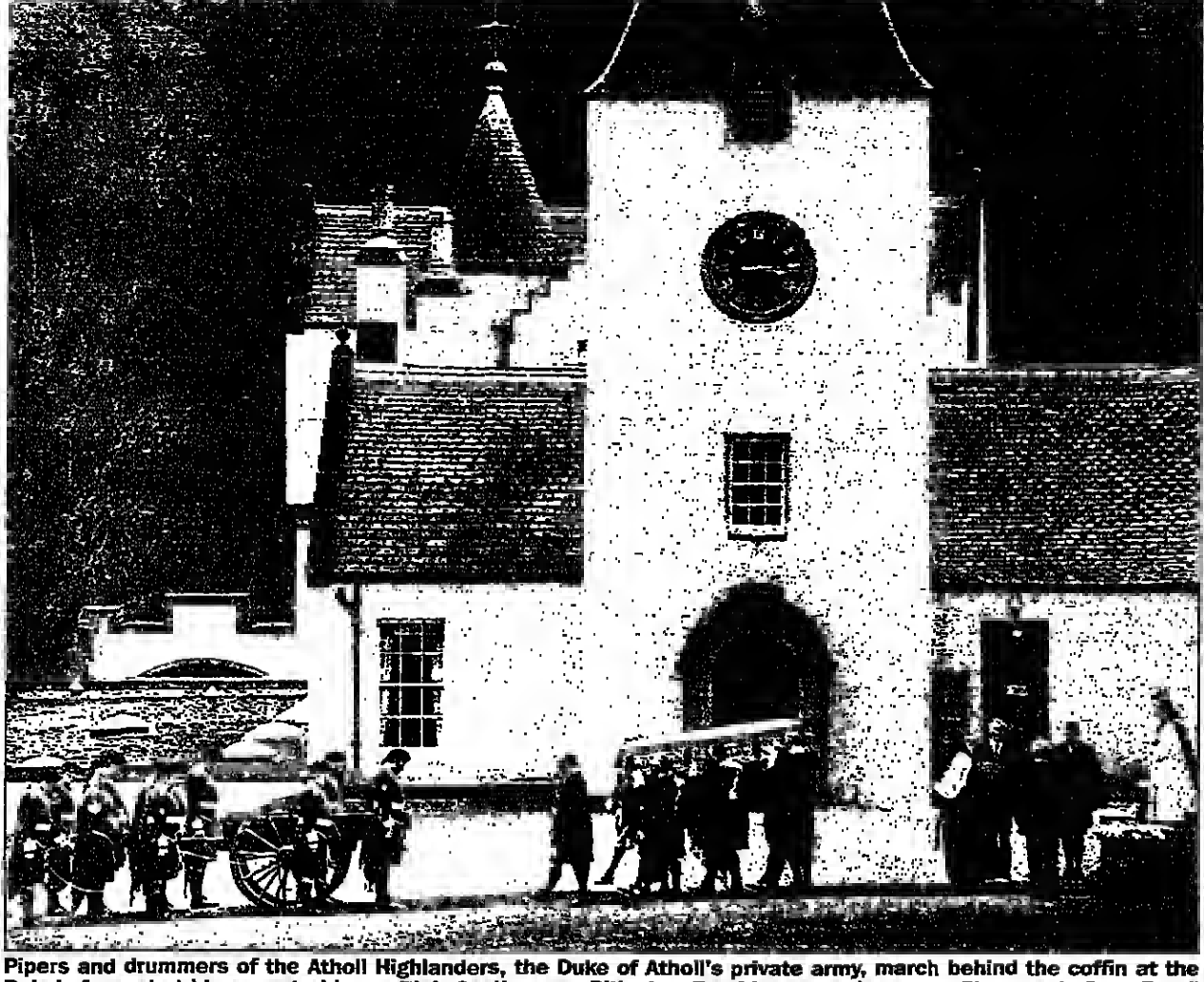
The Lord Chancellor yesterday said it would be better to deal with pensions splitting "properly by issuing a Green Paper to consider all these matters fully."

"The problems are very real and nothing can be done to bring this into effect ... for quite a considerable time."

"I would say it's better to have the legislative provisions clearly thought out before you put them in the statute book."

Frank Field, Labour chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Social Security, said the Lords made the right decision on the principle of pension splitting, in spite of the practical difficulties.

"There is the initial difficulty of computing a value to what pension entitlement up to the point of divorce is, and then splitting that and allowing some of those funds to be taken from the scheme," he said. "The Lords made the right decision, one of principle."



Pipers and drummers of the Atholl Highlanders, the Duke of Atholl's private army, march behind the coffin at the Duke's funeral at his ancestral home Blair Castle, near Pitlochry, Tayside, yesterday. Photograph: Drew Farrell

Major's Scott vote hand revealed

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

A Tory MP yesterday said he had voted to save the Government from a humiliating defeat in the Commons over the IRA's refusal to accept a ceasefire. The MP, Sir Nicholas Lyell, said he had voted against the Prime Minister's demand that the IRA accept a ceasefire.

The Government won by one vote, and last night Labour warned it will challenge the Prime Minister over the disclosures by the Tory MP for Hendon South when Mr Major returns from the Far East.

Robin Cook, shadow Foreign Secretary, questioned how many more Tory MPs changed their minds over the Scott affair – avoiding the resignations of William Waldegrave and Sir Nicholas Lyell – because of warnings on Northern Ireland.

Mr Marshall said: "The Prime Minister did not go into the precise details of the Ulster Unionists' demands. But the mere fact they were metaphorically 'holding a pistol to his head' was sufficient."

His remarks last night revived Labour demands for the sackings of Mr Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Sir Nicholas, the Attorney General, who were heavily criticised in the Scott report. If the Government had lost the vote, the two ministers would have faced intense pressure from Tory backbenchers for their resignations.

Mr Marshall said: "In my view, those who made mistakes should have walked."

David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, denied any deal had been sought.

But Mr Marshall's account supported the Government's version of the tense negotiations, which broke down when Mr Major refused to give way any further, leaving the nine Ulster Unionists to vote against the Government.

Bruton bids to reassure Major

DONALD MACINTYRE
Political Editor, Bangkok

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, moved swiftly yesterday to calm British reaction to the IRA Army Council's refusal of an immediate restoration of its ceasefire, condemned by John Major as a "sick joke".

The Taoiseach also went out of his way to join Mr Major in urging Sinn Féin to persuade the IRA to abandon violence. "We don't want another life or another moment to be lost," Mr Bruton declared.

In an early morning meeting in Bangkok, where both leaders are attending an EU-Asia economic summit, Mr Bruton sought to reassure Mr Major that the IRA's opaque and apparently negative statement on Thursday was not its final and considered response to the communiqué issued after Wednesday's Anglo-Irish summit which set a date for all-party talks.

Mr Bruton gave a series of interviews in which he made clear the Irish government's view that there was now no excuse for the IRA not to restore the ceasefire.

He told Irish radio: "We now have a definite date for all-party talks. It's June 10. It's now for Sinn Féin to fulfil their part of the exercise, get the IRA to stop the killing and then everybody will be able to sit round the table."

Mr Bruton, who unlike Mr Major had time to consult officials at home before responding publicly to the Army Council statement, was said to be reassured that it was a response to the pre-arranged meeting with Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams and SDLP leader John Hume on Wednesday rather than to the communiqué. He said it was issued as if the Anglo-Irish summit "had not occurred at all."

Downing Street made it clear yesterday that Mr Major was aware of the Irish analysis, but did not seek to reconcile his angry remarks of Thursday evening. But Mr Adams said they were "unhelpful" and that it was not the time for "knee-jerk" reactions.

Magazine code plan

A Commons Bill to curb explicit sexual content in teenage girls' magazines was given an unexpected second reading. The Government hopes publishers will agree a voluntary code before legislation is introduced.

Footballer accused

The Manchester United footballer Nicky Butt appeared at the city's Crown Court yesterday heading a minor criminal case, restaurant last October. He was bailed to appear for trial, expected to be in May.

Double Dutch

The Plain English Campaign offered to help the Foreign Office cut gobbledegook from the Maastricht Treaty and make it easy to understand. The Dutch government condemned the treaty as a verbal hotchpotch.

Toll verdict delayed

A Scottish sheriff reserved judgement on a legal challenge to tolls on the Kyle Bridge. By decision day next Friday up to 200 drivers will have been charged with refusing to pay the £4.30 car toll.

£1.3m on a plate

Eighty personalised car number plates sold for £1.3m at a London auction. One buyer paid more than £71,000 for N1 CKY. N1 XJA went for £21,780. N1 XON for £37,480. 1 GW for £69,800 and 1 EM for £47,800.

A new flavour

Ostlich burgers will be on the lunch menu on Monday at Aven Valley school in Newbold, Warwickshire. Catering manager Yvonne Bruun said: "They have less fat than beef."

concise crossword
No. 2924 Saturday 2 March By Pti

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

ACROSS
1 Uses an electrical cleaner (5)
4 Inborn (6)
9 Informer (7)
10 Animal (5)
11 Vegetable (4)
12 Former (3-4)
13 Nearest star (3)
14 Informer (4)
16 Inform (on) (4)
18 Notice (3)
20 Injection device (7)
21 Zero (4)
22 Belgian city (5)
25 Away from the shore (7)
26 Provide opposition to (6)
27 Not here (5)

DOWN
1 Hugely (n)
2 Witch (5)
3 Period of reductions (4)
5 Good behaviour required by rank (8)
6 Saudi (7)
7 Respect (6)
8 Wood joint (5)
13 Picked (8)
15 Stuffy (7)
17 Horse handler (6)
18 Sound thinking (5)
19 Annoy (6)
21 Make a speech (5)
23 Bridge player (4)
24 Not here (5)

Weather forecast

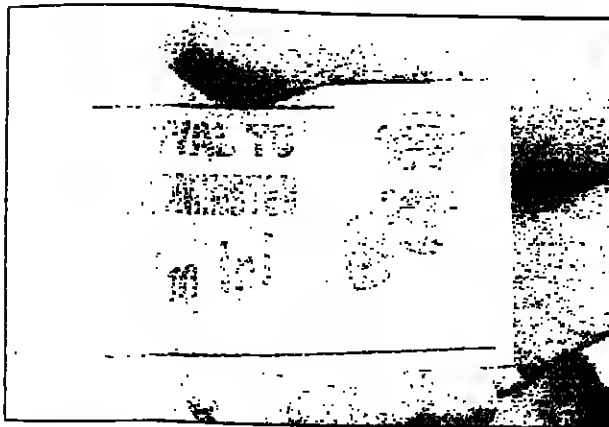
NOON FORECAST

High P is almost stationary. Low A is moving southwards, with little deepening.

WORLD WEATHER

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	12	SW	10	London	12	SW
Paris	10	W	10	Paris	10	W
Madrid	15	SW	10	Madrid	15	SW
Rome	18	SW	10	Rome	18	SW
Athens	20	SW	10	Athens	20	SW
Beijing	5	N	10	Beijing	5	N
Tokyo	8	E	10	Tokyo	8	E
Manila	25	SE	10	Manila	25	SE
Singapore	28	SE	10	Singapore	28	SE
Jakarta	30	SE	10	Jakarta	30	SE
Bombay	32	SE	10	Bombay	32	SE
Calcutta	35	SE	10	Calcutta	35	SE
Delhi	38	SE	10	Delhi	38	SE
Chennai	30	SE	10	Chennai	30	SE
Coimbatore	28	SE	10	Coimbatore	28	SE
Trivandrum	25	SE	10	Trivandrum	25	SE
Thiruvananthapuram	22	SE	10	Thiruvananthapuram	22	SE
Port Blair	20	SE	10	Port Blair	20	SE
Andaman Islands	18	SE	10	Andaman Islands	18	SE
Nicobar Islands	15	SE	10	Nicobar Islands	15	SE
Maldives	12	SE	10	Maldives	12	SE
Sumatra	10	SE	10	Sumatra	10	SE
Java	8	SE	10	Java	8	SE
Borneo	5	SE	10	Borneo	5	SE
Sulawesi	2	SE	10	Sulawesi	2	SE
Moluccas	0	SE	10	Moluccas	0	SE
Malaysia	-2	SE	10	Malaysia	-2	SE
Philippines	-5	SE	10	Philippines	-5	SE
Thailand	-8	SE	10	Thailand	-8	SE
Laos	-10	SE	10	Laos	-10	SE
Cambodia	-12	SE	10	Cambodia	-12	SE
Myanmar	-15	SE	10	Myanmar	-15	SE
Burma	-18	SE	10	Burma	-18	SE
India	-20	SE	10	India	-20	SE
Pakistan	-22	SE	10	Pakistan	-22	SE
Afghanistan	-25	SE	10	Afghanistan	-25	SE
Iran	-28	SE	10	Iran	-28	SE
Turkey	-30	SE	10	Turkey	-30	SE
Greece	-32	SE	10	Greece	-32	SE
Bulgaria	-35	SE	10	Bulgaria	-35	SE
Romania	-38	SE	10	Romania	-38	SE
Yugoslavia	-40	SE	10	Yugoslavia	-40	SE
Serbia	-42	SE	10	Serbia	-42	SE
Croatia	-45	SE	10	Croatia	-45	SE
Slovenia	-48	SE	10	Slovenia	-48	SE
Hungary	-50	SE	10	Hungary	-50	SE
Czech Republic	-52	SE	10	Czech Republic	-52	SE
Slovakia	-55	SE	10	Slovakia	-55	SE
Poland	-58	SE	10	Poland	-58	SE
Germany	-60	SE	10	Germany	-60	SE
France	-62	SE	10	France	-62	SE
Italy	-65	SE	10	Italy	-65	SE
Spain	-68	SE	10	Spain	-68	SE
Portugal	-70	SE	10	Portugal	-70	SE
Belgium	-72	SE	10	Belgium	-72	SE
Netherlands	-75	SE	10	Netherlands	-75	SE
Luxembourg	-78	SE	10	Luxembourg	-78	SE
Switzerland	-80	SE	10	Switzerland	-80	SE
Austria	-82	SE	10	Austria	-82	SE
Germany	-85	SE	10	Germany	-85	SE
France	-88	SE	10	France	-88	SE
Italy	-90	SE	10	Italy	-90	SE
Spain	-92	SE	10	Spain	-92	SE
Portugal	-95	SE	10	Portugal	-95	SE
Belgium	-98	SE	10	Belgium	-98	SE
Netherlands	-100	SE	10	Netherlands	-100	SE
Luxembourg	-102	SE	10	Luxembourg	-102	SE
Switzerland	-105	SE	10	Switzerland	-105	SE
Austria	-108	SE	10	Austria	-108	SE
Germany	-110	SE	10	Germany	-110	SE
France	-112	SE	10	France	-112	SE
Italy	-115	SE	10	Italy	-115	SE
Spain	-118	SE	10	Spain	-118	SE
Portugal	-120	SE	10	Portugal	-120	SE
Belgium	-122	SE	10	Belgium	-122	SE
Netherlands	-125	SE	10	Netherlands	-125	SE
Luxembourg	-128	SE	10	Luxembourg	-128	SE
Switzerland	-130	SE	10	Switzerland	-130	SE
Austria	-132	SE	10	Austria	-132	SE
Germany	-135	SE	10	Germany	-135	SE
France	-138	SE	10	France	-138	SE
Italy	-140	SE	10	Italy	-140	SE
Spain	-142	SE	10	Spain	-142	SE
Portugal	-145	SE	10	Portugal	-145	SE
Belgium	-148	SE	10	Belgium	-148	SE
Netherlands	-150	SE	10	Netherlands	-150	SE
Luxembourg	-152	SE	10	Luxembourg	-152	SE
Switzerland	-155	SE	10	Switzerland	-155	SE
Austria	-158	SE	10	Austria	-158	SE
Germany	-160	SE	10	Germany	-160	SE
France	-162	SE	10	France	-162	SE
Italy	-165	SE	10	Italy	-165	SE
Spain	-168	SE	10	Spain	-168	SE
Portugal	-170	SE	10	Portugal	-170	SE
Belgium	-172	SE	10	Belgium	-172	SE
Netherlands	-175	SE	10	Netherlands	-175	SE
Luxembourg	-178	SE	10	Luxembourg	-178	SE
Switzerland	-180	SE	10	Switzerland	-180	SE
Austria	-182	SE	10	Austria	-182	SE
Germany	-185	SE	10	Germany	-185	SE
France	-188	SE	10	France	-188	SE
Italy	-190	SE	10	Italy	-190	SE
Spain	-192	SE	10	Spain	-192	SE
Portugal	-195	SE	10	Portugal	-195	SE
Belgium	-198	SE	10	Belgium	-198	SE
Netherlands	-200	SE	10	Netherlands	-200	SE
Luxembourg	-202	SE	10	Luxembourg	-202	SE
Switzerland	-205	SE	10	Switzerland	-205	SE
Austria	-208	SE	10	Austria	-208	SE
Germany	-210	SE	10	Germany	-210	SE
France	-212	SE	10	France	-212	SE
Italy	-215	SE	10	Italy	-215	SE
Spain	-218	SE	10	Spain	-218	SE
Portugal	-220	SE	10	Portugal	-220	SE
Belgium	-222	SE	10	Belgium	-222	SE
Netherlands	-225	SE	10	Netherlands	-225	SE
Luxembourg	-228	SE	10	Luxembourg	-228	SE
Switzerland	-230	SE	10	Switzerland	-230	SE
Austria	-232	SE	10	Austria	-232	SE
Germany	-235	SE	10	Germany	-235	SE
France	-238	SE	10	France	-238	SE
Italy	-240	SE	10	Italy	-240	SE
Spain	-242	SE	10	Spain	-242	SE
Portugal	-245	SE	10	Portugal	-245	SE
Belgium	-248	SE	10	Belgium	-248	SE
Netherlands	-250	SE	10	Netherlands	-250	SE
Luxembourg	-252	SE	10	Luxembourg	-252	SE
Switzerland	-255	SE	10	Switzerland	-255	SE
Austria	-258	SE	10	Austria	-258	SE
Germany	-260	SE	10	Germany	-260	SE
France	-262	SE	10	France	-262	SE
Italy	-265	SE	10	Italy	-265	SE
Spain	-268	SE	10	Spain	-268	SE
Portugal	-270	SE	10	Portugal	-270	SE
Belgium	-272	SE	10	Belgium	-272	SE
Netherlands	-275	SE	10	Netherlands	-275	SE
Luxembourg	-278	SE	10	Luxembourg	-278	SE
Switzerland	-280	SE	10	Switzerland	-280	SE
Austria	-282	SE	10	Austria	-282	SE
Germany	-285	SE	10	Germany	-285	SE
France	-288	SE	10	France	-288	SE
Italy	-290	SE	10	Italy	-290	SE
Spain	-292	SE	10	Spain	-292	SE
Portugal	-295	SE	10	Portugal	-295	SE
Belgium	-298	SE	10	Belgium	-298	SE
Netherlands	-300	SE	10	Netherlands	-300	SE
Luxembourg	-302	SE	10	Luxembourg	-302	SE
Switzerland	-305	SE	10	Switzerland	-305	SE
Austria	-308	SE	10	Austria	-308	SE
Germany	-310	SE	10	Germany	-310	SE
France	-312	SE	10	France	-312	SE
Italy	-315	SE	10	Italy	-315	SE
Spain	-318	SE	10	Spain	-318	SE
Portugal	-320	SE	10	Portugal	-320	SE
Belgium	-322	SE	10	Belgium	-322	SE
Netherlands	-325	SE	10	Netherlands	-325	SE
Luxembourg	-328	SE	10	Luxembourg	-328	SE
Switzerland	-330	SE	10	Switzerland	-330	SE
Austria	-332	SE	10	Austria	-332	SE
Germany	-335	SE	10	Germany	-335	SE
France	-338	SE	10	France	-338	SE
Italy	-340	SE	10	Italy	-340	SE
Spain	-342	SE	10	Spain	-342	SE
Portugal	-345	SE	10	Portugal	-345	SE

Leominster's traders play the loyalty card in attempt to trump out-of-town supermarket



RICHARD SMITH

More than 60 shopkeepers in an ancient Hereford and Worcester market town are fighting back against the large out-of-town supermarket they claim has badly hit their takings.

Traders in the town, which has a population of 10,000, have banded together to launch their own loyalty card scheme offering gifts and discounts of up to 25 per cent for shoppers using the town centre.

The "Loyal To Leominster" campaign has been organised by Graham Hurley, a butcher, to lure back shoppers from Safeway's out-of-town store, which opened nearly four years ago. A recent survey by the local Chamber of Commerce revealed that 35 shops in the town centre were empty and six more had been converted into houses. Two town-centre supermarkets have closed, while three garages, a petrol station and a pub are also empty.

"Safeway's really knocked the town centre for six and we have been wallowing in self-pity ever since," said Mr Hurley, 45, who owns a specialist pork butcher's shop. "A lot of small retailers closed down... it's too easy to park up at Safeway, do all your shopping and forget about the town centre."

"My turnover went down by 33 per cent overnight and although there has been a gradual

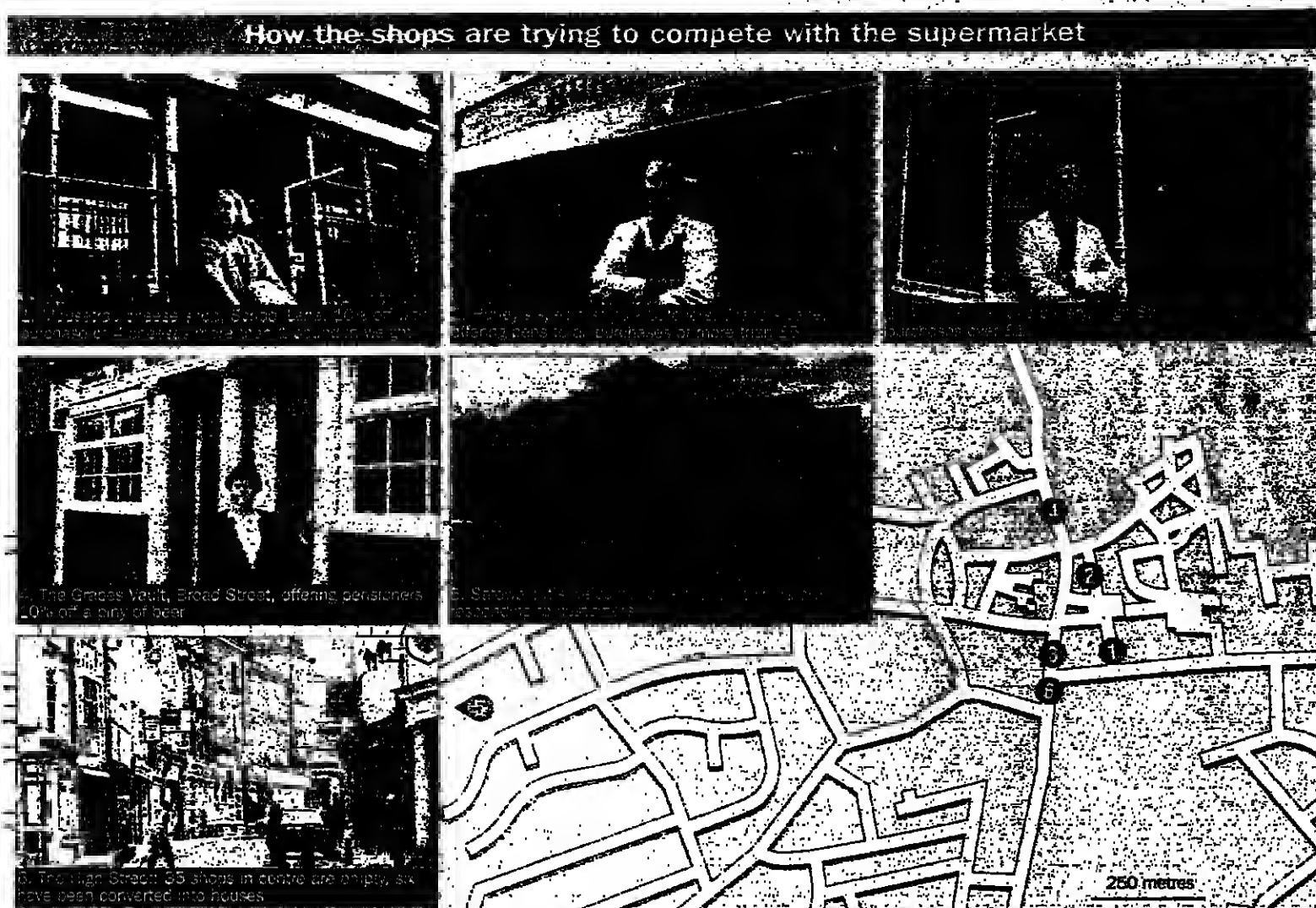
recovery its nowhere near back to the previous levels."

He added: "This will show people that shopkeepers in Leominster are not just a bunch of groaners. Although the supermarkets are clever at their job they cannot compete with the discounts we are offering."

The shops have spent £800 printing 10,000 membership cards. Every home in the town has been sent a leaflet with a picture of Lord Kitchener pointing a finger and asking: "Are you loyal to Leominster?"

Joining the scheme will be free and shoppers will be entitled to a wide range of cash discounts from local shops, building societies and insurance brokers. For instance, Ann's Pat-a-Cake bakery is offering 10 per cent off all purchases over £1 and there are similar discounts on children's summer clothes at Giddy Two Shoes, the Olive Branch restaurant, meals at the Talbot Hotel, and shoes costing more than £20 at Freeman Hardy and Willis.

Monica Todd, president of the Chamber of Commerce and an insurance broker, said: "It's a brilliant idea - we have got to take on the supermarket giants if we are going to survive. There are around 100 shops in the town and the main reason so many are empty is the success of Safeway and the spiralling cost of business rates. The whole character of the



How the shops are trying to compete with the supermarket

town has changed - apart from Market Day, there isn't a buzz about the place any more because people are not coming here. This should certainly help to revitalise Leominster. The alternative is... just give in. Leominster's narrow streets follow a medieval grid pattern and even though there are three town-centre car parks shoppers always face a short walk with their provisions. Somerfield and Quicksave have supermarkets on the fringe

of the town's main shopping area, but locals insist that their effect on the town centre is minimal compared to the Safeway store three-quarters of a mile away in Barons Cross Road which has its own post office.

Susan Fenton, 63, a retired farmer, said: "I'm disabled and it is easier to park and shop at Safeway - it would take at least an extra half-hour and a lot of carrying in the town centre. But I think the whole town dies a

death when the centre goes.

"It's one of those rolling balls - the less shops that are open the fewer people will come into town. It isn't much fun wandering round a town where half the shops are empty."

A Safeway spokesman said: "The important thing about our store is that ultimately it recaptures trade that was being lost to Hereford... Its very welcome to hear that people in Leominster are responding to customers."

How shopping habits have changed

	1990	1995 (est)	1990	1995 (est)
Single outlets	69.6	72.5	16.4	15.1
Small multiples	16.3	14.0	7.8	6.2
Large multiples	13.5	14.5	74.0	80.7

Numbers of specialist retailing outlets in UK

	1990	1995	Change 1990-95
Butchers	17,044	15,150	-11%
Greengrocers	14,339	12,400	-14%
Bakers	6,856	5,500	-17%
Fishmongers	2,974	2,050	-31%

Source: Retailing industry figures

Bailiffs advance on road protest

Seventeen people were arrested yesterday as bailiffs continued to clear the largest protest camp blocking the route of the Newbury bypass.

Police said the arrests were for obstruction and aggravated trespass as protesters, some in tree-houses, offered resistance. Thames Valley police said: "The protesters have been putting up quite a struggle."

Police moved into the "Fixie Village" site in Sharnbrook Common, Berkshire, the biggest of more than 20 camps on the route, early on Thursday. There were 13 arrests on Thursday and several people were trampled underfoot in clashes on the ground between demonstrators and police horses.

The police presence, was maintained overnight to prevent other protesters from joining those still in the trees and yesterday an excavator cleared a path to the treehouses. Bailiffs then went up in cranes known as cherry pickers to bring down the tree dwellers. One bailiff was repeatedly showered with urine during efforts to clear lower branches from a tree. Police said: "A woman in the tree had a bucket of urine and kept putting it at the bailiff as he tried to climb the tree. But he carried on regardless."

Pete Foulding, a tunnel expert, had confirmed that a maze of tunnels beneath the camp was clear, police said.

Police prison vans filled up as tension remained high during the day. At least one protester appeared to have been arrested for assault. Fellow demonstrators accused police of assaulting the protester.

Eight of the 13 arrested on Thursday have been charged with obstruction and aggravated trespass and given bail. One was released, two released after caution, one bailed to return to a police station and one remained in custody.

Fresh slicks raise fears of deliberate oil dumping

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR

At least two other oil slicks have been reported in the sea near the site of the *Sea Empress* spill, raising fears that other ships may be using the disaster to dump oil deliberately.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds yesterday said that oiled birds were being picked up in Rhyl, north Wales, too far away to have been affected by the *Sea Empress*. There has also been a spill on the North Devon coast which appears not to have come from the *Empress*.

Members of the RSPB monitoring scheme had also seen a slick on the Merioneth coast in north-west Wales, and another in Carmarthen Bay, site of the initial problem, neither of which were from the *Empress*.

Chris Harbard, spokesman for the RSPB, said yesterday: "We have picked up several common scoters near Rhyl and on the North Devon coast birds have been in oil which appears different from that of the *Empress*."

He said that ships coming to Britain were supposed to clear their oil bilges in port but that it was cheaper and quicker for them to do so while at sea. "This happens more often in the

winter when the nights are longer because the ships do it under cover of darkness."

The Marine Control Pollution Unit confirmed the existence of at least two other slicks, but was unable to confirm their origin. A spokesman said: "We have no evidence that masters are discharging oil illegally on purpose."

Meanwhile, Tony Blair, the Labour leader, on a St David's Day visit to Wales to talk about plans for a Welsh Assembly, joined the Pemhroke MP Nick Ainger to meet teams involved in the clean-up operation. At the RSPCA emergency

hospital in Milford Haven he was shown oiled seabirds being fed and washed. So far more than 2,600 have been recovered but 1,500 have died.

Mr Blair said: "It is absolutely essential that we take steps to ensure that this never happens again."

He said that recommendations made by Lord Donaldson in the wake of the *Braer* spill had not been implemented by the government.

Animal welfare groups involved in rescue operations will be able to claim compensation from the ship's insurers, the Government said last night.

Anti-Nazis picket jazz gig by Mussolini's son

PAUL FIELD

A jazz concert by Mussolini's son Romano, organised by Fascist sympathisers, was expected to be picketed last night by Anti-Nazi League protesters.

The black-tie event at the Marlborough Hotel in Grosvenor Square, central London, was sponsored by an accommodation agency whose owners have links with the far right in Italy and the United Kingdom.

Massimo Morsello and Roberto Fiore, who run the Kensington-based agency Meeting Point, agreed to organise the concert because of their adoration for Il Duce. The concert, given by Romano Mussolini, a pianist, and his quartet, was expected to attract an audience of neo-Fascists, despite his own non-political reputation.

Mr Morsello, who keeps a

bust of Mussolini on his desk but has never heard Romano play, claimed he was approached by the pianist's representatives because of his business expertise. He stressed that he expected Italian jazz enthusiasts to attend but admitted: "Our main interest is that we are obviously Fascist, we are open about that and we have a weakness for his father."

Both Mr Morsello and Mr Fiore were active in Italian far-right politics in the early 1980s. The latter was a member of Terza Posizione, the political wing of the Armed Revolutionary Nuclei, which claimed responsibility for the 1985 bombing of Bologna railway station which left 85 people dead and 200 injured.

Mr Fiore and Mr Morsello were sentenced in absentia to nine and ten years in jail for subversive associations and being

members of an armed gang, although both men, who are 37, still proclaim their innocence.

Romano Mussolini, 69, performed in public for the first time in 1956, has appeared in most European countries and played with Chet Baker. He made his London debut at the Soho Jazz Festival in 1991.

His daughter Alessandra, 33, is an Italian MP for the neo-Fascist Alleanza Nazionale. His daughter by his second marriage Rachele, 21, a sociology student, is competing in the 1996 Miss Italy contest.

Last Thursday Glyn Ford, MEP for Greater Manchester East, wrote to the hotel, urging the general manager, Franz Fersche, to cancel the booking.

However, a hotel spokeswoman, Elaine Ellis, said it was not the hotel's normal policy to accept or reject bookings on any basis other than availability.

Police in shoot-out with gang

Seven people were arrested and one was wounded when armed police ambushed a gang who had hijacked a security van in London yesterday.

Flying Squad officers had apparently been lying in wait for the van at the warehouse in Fulham, south-west London, following an armed robbery in Knightsbridge.

Police, wearing bullet-proof vests and carrying MP5 carbine machine pistols, fired up to seven shots in after stopping the suspect van.

A Scotland Yard spokeswoman described how a security van containing a large amount of cash had been making a delivery in the Knightsbridge area when it was hijacked by four armed men on two motorcycles.

The van was taken, with the guards inside, about four miles away to the derelict warehouse. "As a result of the action of one of the suspects a number of shots were fired by the police," she said. "One of the suspects was slightly wounded with a grazed wrist."

Five men were arrested at the scene and another was picked up nearby. The seventh - a woman - was arrested later. The guards who were taken hostage were not hurt.

Police recovered the stolen cash as well as a loaded revolver, masks and radios. An inquiry is being carried out by the Complaints Investigatory Bureau - standard procedure when police open fire.

Squatter estate agency opens

Britain's newest estate agent opened yesterday with some unique property descriptions.

The Squatting Estate Agents has opened in a corner shop in Brighton by the campaign group Justice. Photographs of properties were displayed with comments such as "Easy to get in. Good condition. Been empty for a long time." and "Clean, nice but small. Alarmed with Chubb and Yale locks".

Justice claims Brighton has

the highest percentage of homelessness in the country. "While bits of paper are shuffled about and so-called urgent meetings waste hours, nothing ever seems to be done, so one practical solution is to squat," reads a publicity leaflet at the estate agent.

But not all has gone smoothly for the agency; the council served it with an affidavit to face court eviction proceedings on Monday. At the "grand opening" of the shop, one of the

group, Paul, said: "I wish the council would house people quicker than they evict people."

Clive Buxton, a hotelier, deplored the publicity being given to the resort. "We are a conference and tourist town and... this is not doing it much good," he said.

But Paul denied people were being encouraged to break the law. "You either starve and die on the street or you find somewhere to live," he said.



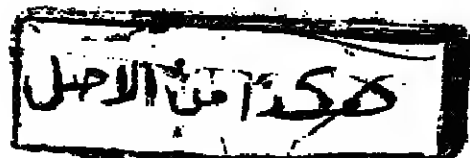
If you'd like to know more about our unique whiskey, write to us for a free booklet at the Jack Daniel Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee USA.

IT TAKES A SHARP SAW to make a smooth whiskey.

You see, unlike bourbons, Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey goes through a step called charcoal mellowing. We seep our whiskey—drop by drop—through room-high mellowing vats of finely-tamped charcoal. To fill just one of these vats with charcoal, our sawyer will cut enough hard maple wood to stack 32 ricks, seven feet high. Then, he'll do it all over again. No doubt, charcoal mellowing is hard on our saw and our sawyer. But it sure makes things easy on our drinkers.



JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY



news

Whistle-blowers' Bill wins support of MPs

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

A Bill to protect individuals who blow the whistle on crime or malpractice at work cleared its first Commons hurdle by 118 votes to nil yesterday – despite the Government making plain its opposition.

The Bill appeared to have got through to its committee stage, however, because of an error by

Government whips who failed to ensure it was talked out after John Taylor, the junior trade and industry minister, told MPs it represented "neither a practical or desirable way forward".

Without Government backing, the Bill is set to fail despite cross-party support and the hopes that it would be given a fair wind in the wake of the Savill report and commitments to more open government.

The Bill would provide some protection for those who exposed serious malpractice at work in both the public and private sectors, providing they raised the issue internally first, could convince a court they were acting in the public interest, and did not seek financial gain from their actions. Individuals could seek injunctions preventing reprisals, while the £11,000 limit on compensation

for unfair dismissal in such circumstances would be lifted.

Mr Taylor told MPs that "in a vast range of the public service" effective procedures for the "undoubtedly preferable option" of internal whistle-blowing already existed. The Bill was therefore unnecessary. He also maintained – to flat denials from the Bill's sponsors, who included Iain Duncan-Smith, the Conservative MP for Chingford

– that it would impose "a considerable burden on industry".

Mr Duncan-Smith said the Bill was "not about regulation". It simply encouraged best practice, ensuring companies did not "try to cut corners where they shouldn't".

Don Touhy, Labour MP for Islington, the Bill's originator, said there were many examples, from the Zeebrugge ferry disaster to the Piper Alpha plat-

form explosion, in which lives had been lost where employees had kept quiet about malpractice for fear of losing their jobs. Several Conservatives spoke against the Bill claiming it would be a "whingers' charter" but Anthony Coombs, the Wyre Forest MP said it was a "valuable measure" which would protect the individual against large enterprise and the state. "I believe that is a very sound

conservative principle." Alan Howarth, who defected to Labour last year, said a whistle-blower at Matrix Churchill had provided evidence to Whitehall that the firm's equipment was being used to make shell cases, and "the legal protection for responsible whistle-blowers that this Bill provides would be a valuable additional protection to our liberties and to public safety".

Mr Taylor said he applauded Mr Touhy's motives, but the Bill would be very uncertain in its effect, leaving both employees and employers unsure what would constitute public interest.

After the vote, Mr Touhy argued that it was "significant" in the wake of the Savill report that the Government had "wisely decided not to test this measure by putting its supporters through the lobby".

Hewitt affair returns to haunt Diana

LOUISE JURY

The Prince of Wales headed off to the ski slopes of Klosters this weekend as the Princess of Wales was facing embarrassment from her former lover the ex-Army captain James Hewitt, who has given his first television interview on their affair.

News of the potentially explosive revelations from Mr Hewitt came as lawyers acting for the Prince and Princess attempted quiet diplomacy over their divorce negotiations.

A royal war of words broke out on Wednesday after the Princess announced that she had had a private meeting with her husband that afternoon and agreed to end the marriage.

She said they had agreed she would take the title Diana, Princess of Wales, and continue to live at Kensington Palace. But Buckingham Palace expressed surprise and said all details remained to be settled.

The contradictory statements prompted a tough letter from Anthony Julius, the Princess's solicitor, to Fiona Shackleton at Farrer and Co, who acts for the Prince. Mr Julius warned: "If we cannot rely on agreements that have been made, it would be unsafe to continue negotiations."

Late yesterday, Jane Atkinson, the Princess's press adviser, said a response had been received and Mr Julius was now considering the situation. But she said: "We are giving no information about it at all. The

discussions now between the lawyers are absolutely confidential." She said the Princess, who pulled out of an engagement on Thursday in distress, had recovered her spirits.

A spokeswoman for the Prince's solicitor, Fiona Shackleton, said she had nothing to say – a view repeated by Buckingham Palace.

The silence left royal watchers with the more gossipy revelation that Mr Hewitt, the 37-year-old former Army captain, has given a filmed interview to the journalist Anna Pasternak, who wrote a much-derided book about his relations with the Princess.

Sebastian Rich, 42, a former ITN cameraman, was named as the film crew for the kiss-and-tell footage in which Mr Hewitt reportedly answers 130 questions about every aspect of his royal liaison. Miss Pasternak, 29, said: "Mr Hewitt is very frank, honest and candid about their physical relationship in the same way as the Princess was in her *Panorama* interview."

Broadcasting experts estimated the film could fetch a seven-figure sum with worldwide interest, heightened by the royal divorce. The London office of the American network CBS News said: "There was a scramble for Diana's *Panorama* interview and this is undoubtedly going to be the same."

In her interview, the Princess said she had "adored" Mr Hewitt, "but I was very let down".



Up on the roof: Dr Robert Anderson, director of the British Museum, in front of the domed Reading Room

Photograph Philip Meech

Museum wins £30m lottery grant for new roof

REBECCA FOWLER

The British Museum will receive £30m lottery money towards a new glass roof for the Great Court, designed by Sir Norman Foster, which will be opened for the first time in 150 years for the millennium.

The two and a half-acre site

at the centre of the museum, which receives 6 million visitors a year, will be transformed into a piazza, with galleries, restaurants and rest areas. It includes the Round Reading Room, which will be opened to the public for the first time.

Dr Robert Anderson, director of the museum, said: "The

trustees and staff are delighted we can make a very significant contribution to the celebration of the new millennium."

He added: "The Great Court will enhance the British Museum's position as one of the leading international museums and it will help us deal with major problems of overcrowding."

The idea of a glass roof for the courtyard, which formed part of the original building of the 1820s, was first mooted in 1852, using the same technology as the Crystal Palace.

When the British Library, based in the Round Reading Room where Karl Marx once studied, announced three years

ago it was going to move to St Pancras, the scheme was revived, with the intention of transforming the inner court into the focus of the building, as it was originally intended.

The total cost of the renovations, which will begin in 1998, will be £72m. The museum has raised £21m independently.

Meat firm seeks to overturn BSE ban

CHARLES ARTHUR
Science Correspondent

A meat processing company is challenging the Government's ban on the use of cows' spines in mechanically recovered meat, claiming it is unlawful.

If Great Harwood Food Products, of Great Harwood in Lancashire, wins the case, food companies could once more include ground-up cattle bones in meat products.

This may renew fears that mad cow disease, or BSE, could be transmitted to humans.

The ban on the use of cows' brains, skulls and spines in mechanically recovered meat was introduced last November, in the wake of fears that BSE-infected tissue could pass into food. At the time, the agriculture minister Douglas Hogg said the measure was "designed to protect public health from any remote theoretical risk from BSE".

Great Harwood Food Products, which produces mechanically "removed" meat for burgers, pies, sausages, soups and other products, says the new controls pose a serious threat to its business. It describes the ban as "disproportionate, irrational and unreasonable" and therefore unlawful under both domestic and European law.

The company is seeking a judicial review, arguing that ministers were trespassing on an area exclusively covered by EU rules. No date has yet been set for the hearing.

From just £30
the RAC
covers you
in any
car.

From just £30 for a full 12 months' cover, no one offers you more security on the road than the RAC.

■ **RAC Rescue** covers you, not your car. So now you can call on us whenever you need fast roadside assistance, even when you're simply a passenger in someone else's car.

■ **Roadside Rescue**. In more than 8 out of 10 cases, our patrols can fix cars on the spot. Otherwise, they'll tow you to a nearby garage, free of charge.

■ **Accident Service**. A replacement car, free legal advice, plus we'll deal with your insurers.

■ **Theft and Vandalism Cover**. If your car's stolen or can't be driven because of vandalism, we'll remove it to a nearby garage or secure area.

■ **Battery Assist**. A new battery on the spot.

Whatever service you use, callouts and our labour are free – you only pay for parts.

You can also tailor your cover to meet your needs, with the option to take out Joint and Family Cover or add our 'At Home' service.

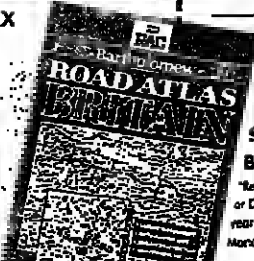
Don't wait until you break down. Find out how to join the RAC today.

PHONE FREE TODAY ON
0800 029 029
OR INTERNET
<http://www.rac.co.uk/>

AND QUOTE SS1942/3/XX

FREE
1996 RAC ROAD ATLAS
RRP £8.99

When you join the RAC today



YES – I want to join the RAC.
Please tell me how I can join from just £30*

Mr/Ms/Miss/Me

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Send to: RAC Rescue, FREEPOST,
Bristol BS38 7AU. (No stamp needed.)

*Rescue costs £30 a year, plus by Government Code Grant Authority
or Code Grant Code equivalent grant of £10 and discount applied to year 1st
year membership only. All prices include an equivalent for phone lines open
Monday – Friday 8am – 8pm, Saturday 9am – 5pm, Sunday 10am – 4pm.

ST0004/SS1941/3/XX



euostar

BRUSSELS

Don't be a couch potato.

WITH A CARROT.

Get up and go with Eurostar to Brussels.

FROM £69

A city with more Michelin star restaurants per person than Paris.

RETURN.

Subject to conditions and availability. Call for more information.

0990 186 186

<http://www.eurostar.com/eurostar/>

LONDON TO THE CENTRE OF BRUSSELS. DIRECT.

مکان العمل

Motorways will grind to a halt in 20 years

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport Correspondent

Large sections of the motorway and trunk road network will be severely congested at both peak and off-peak times in 20 years time, according to maps produced by the Department of Transport and released yesterday by the RAC.

The maps show that at present there are only a few "hotspots", such as the M25 and parts of the road network around Manchester, Birmingham and Leeds.

Using Department of Transport projections which suggest traffic growth of between 83 and 142 per cent from the late 1980s, the maps suggest that by the year 2015 - even on low traffic growth estimates - large parts of the motorway network in the South-east will experience long periods of congestion.

All strategic routes, the whole of the South-west and large areas of the Midlands and the North will have severe congestion problems.

The maps are based on the assumption that there will be no road improvements beyond those now under construction, such as the Newbury bypass and the M11 link roads.

The roads programme has been hit badly by the past two budgets, with a total cut of over a quarter from the 1994/95 peak. No new big starts are scheduled for the forthcoming year because of overspending on past schemes and a reduction in the money available.

The RAC says that the maps show that the present lack of a coherent government policy on transport has disastrous long-term consequences. Edmund King, campaigns manager of the RAC, said: "We have been stuck without a long-term transport policy for years. The Government has not come up with any idea on what to do about congestion, but it has been happy to slash the roads programme. This just doesn't add up." Mr King says the details contained in the maps "condemn the motorist to at least 10 years of chaos and increasingly severe congestion".

The maps will be seized upon by both sides of the transport debate as evidence of failed policy. The environmentalists argue that even with massive spending on roads there would be little improvement as the congestion crisis is growing faster than any feasible road programme. Britain could afford.

Roger Higman, a transport campaigner with Friends of the Earth, said: "This just shows that we need policies to stem the growth in traffic, not to try to accommodate it by concreting over large sections of Britain."

The pro-roads lobby suggests, however, that the roads programme must be reinstated to its former levels. Mark Glover, spokesman for the British Road Federation, said: "Unless we are prepared to increase road capacity, users will have to pay a massive cost in terms of congestion."



By royal appointment: Canon Marion Mingins reflecting on her new honorary title yesterday Photograph: Findlay Kember

Female chaplain gets royal seal

JOJO MOYES

In a move that is being seen as a sign of approval of the ordination of women priests, the Queen has appointed the first female Church of England royal chaplain.

Canon Marion Mingins will join 34 men already holding the honorary title, which involves taking private services for the Royal Family at the royal chapel in St James's Palace.

"I have not been privy to the extent the Queen made the running on my appointment, but the fact remains she is the supreme governor of the Church of England," said Canon Mingins yesterday.

"In appointing a woman as royal chaplain it appears to be a vote of confidence in the ordination of women which is why I am particularly pleased."

Canon Mingins, 43, was among the first women to be ordained as a Church of England deacon when she was given the title at Southwark Cathedral in 1987.

She was ordained a full priest in April 1994, soon after the church changed its rules to allow women priests, and for the last five years has been a residentiary canon at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, where the bishop, the Right Rev John Dennis, said the appointment was "a very great tribute to her and the quality of her ministry".

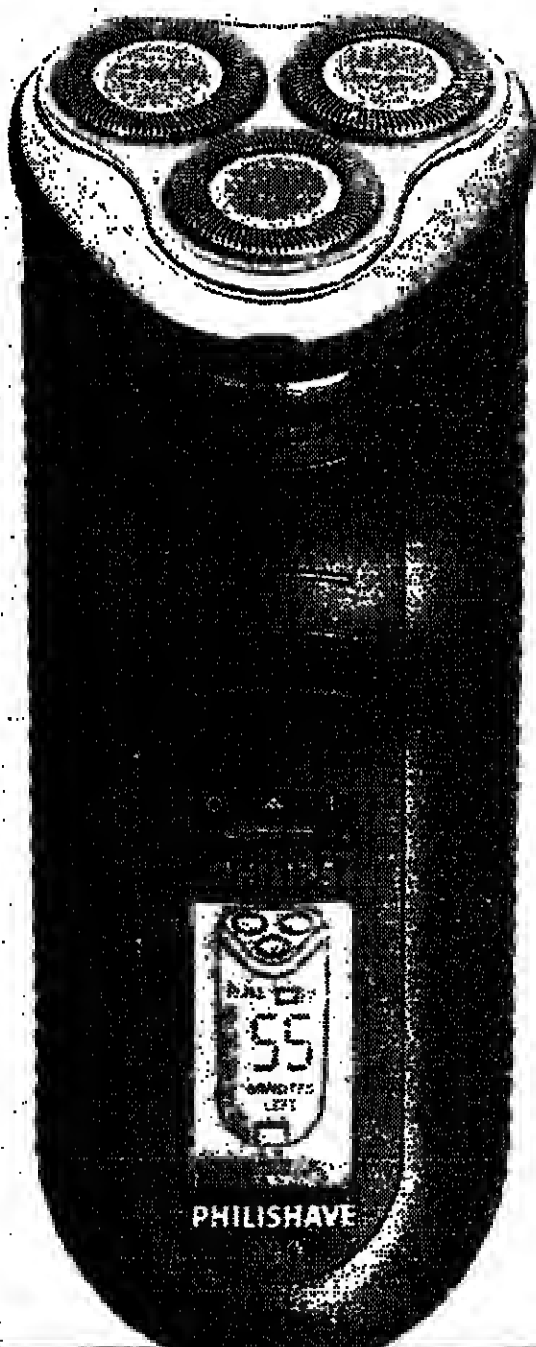
The former social worker from Tyneside said she was delighted with her appointment to the principally ceremonial post, which dates back to the Middle Ages.

"Many areas of ministerial responsibility in the church which had been previously closed to women are now opening up to them and this is just the latest example," she said, adding: "The appointment is a considerable personal honour."

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said the Queen had a woman royal chaplain in the Church of Scotland, but that Canon Mingins was the first in the Church of England.

PHILISHAVE®

A FREE GIFT FROM PHILISHAVE: UP TO £15 BACK.



£15 CASH BACK ON THIS HS990 SHAVER. MRP £119.95*

Philishave has always given you what no other shaver has - 45 self-sharpening blades, the unique 'lift and cut' action, individually floating heads and now cash.

Spend £40 or over on a Philishave and receive £5. Spend £50 or over and receive £10. Spend £90 or over and receive £15.

Just buy a Philishave between February 17th and April 8th, 1996.

Then send us the receipt along with the coupon below. All claims must be received by April 22nd, 1996. For up to £15 cash back, buy a Philishave now.

For claim enquiries, call 01727 840 611.

To: Philishave Cashback Offer, 34 Upper Marlborough Road, St. Albans, Herts. AL1 3UU. Attached are my 'Consumerlink Questionnaire' and original till receipt dated between 17.2.96 and 8.4.96. I claim my £15 refund on my Philishave costing £90 and over. £10 for any model costing £50 and over and £5 for models costing £40 and over.

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Telephone (tel. no.) _____
Model no. _____
Where purchased _____

Offer applies to UK only. Your receipt will be returned with your cheque. Allow 28 days for delivery. *Manufacturer's Recommended Price.



Made in Japan: The 1996 2-litre Mitsubishi Galus

Rolls unfazed by imitation model

ROS WYNN-JONES

The battle of the Rollers has begun. Representing Britain is the hand-built 1973 Silver Shadow with a walnut veneer dashboard and a 6.7-litre engine. Flying the flag for Japan is the 1996 Mitsubishi Galus, a 2-litre dead ringer for the English classic, minus the Spirit of Ecstasy statuette. The brand new Japanese version, which translates literally as "doing it my way", costs slightly less than the second-hand original.

Rolls-Royce, due to launch three new models at next week's Geneva Motor Show, is unfazed by the competition. The car, the ultimate choice for Lady Penelope in the Seventies television show *Thunderbirds*, is just as popular in the Nineties with young celebrity owners ranging from Noel Gallagher of Oasis to the boys in *Take That*. "All we would be concerned about was if someone was using our trademarks," said a spokeswoman for Rolls-Royce. "Bodywork is not a trademark and they have not used the Spirit of Ecstasy as far as we are aware, so although we are looking into the matter we are not too worried."

The company's cool confidence is borne out by the loyalty of its customers. The ocellist Dame Barbara Cartland, who owned the very first white Silver Shadow, built especially for her in the 1960s, was horrified to hear the Japanese had dared launch a rival. "This is very worrying," she said yesterday. "I am very concerned about British cars - you just don't see them on the roads nowadays. I would never buy a Japanese car and certainly not a cheap imitation of a Rolls-Royce. It's disgraceful."

Jim Bowen, the comedian, found there was nothing funny about a foreign imitation of his beloved Silver Shadow. "You've only got to sit in a Rolls-Royce to know it can't be copied cheaply. It must be made of tin with an MP1 interior."

"It's a ludicrous idea. You can buy an original from 1975 for less than the price of the imitation, so what's the point?"

Bridgewater case man's suicide bid

One of the men convicted of the murder of the newspaper boy Carl Bridgewater has tried to commit suicide after hearing that hopes of a new appeal had been dashed, it was disclosed yesterday.

Vincent Hickey, 41, was treated in the hospital wing of Long Lartin prison, near Evesham, Worcestershire, after slashing his wrists on Thursday.

He had been found covered in blood in his cell.

A Prison Service spokesman said the attempt appeared to be "a determined effort". Although the injuries were serious, they were not life-threatening.

Hickey, his 33-year-old cousin Michael, and James Robinson, 61, are serving life sentences for the murder of 13-year-old Carl

in 1978 in Stourbridge, West Midlands.

The three have protested their innocence since their conviction and supporters and relatives claim there is now fresh evidence which could cast doubt on the conviction.

But Home Office ministers made it clear on Wednesday that, although they would look at any new evidence, the feeling was that the case would not be referred back to appeal.

Hickey's solicitor, James Nichol, said he could not comment on the suicide attempt until he had further details.

He said the prisoners' legal team had given the Home Office 28 days to respond to new evidence or solicitors would seek a judicial review.

Let's make things better.



PHILIPS

news

'Unduly lenient' death-crash jail terms increased

The Lord Chief Justice yesterday signalled a tough new attitude to death-crash drivers with dramatic increases in the sentences of two men.

Lord Taylor of Gosforth, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Mr Justice Curtis and Mr Justice Gage, ruled that the four-and-a-half-year term imposed on a man who ran over and killed a 70-year-old while trying to steal his car was "unduly lenient". They ordered that Paul Daves, 21, of Hartlepool, in Cleveland, should serve six years - the "least" sentence that could be imposed.

The judges then increased the sentence of Anthony Jackson, 24, of Holmewood in Bradford, West Yorkshire, from three years to five years after they heard he had killed a teacher while driving at speed the wrong way down a one-way street.

Both cases had been referred to the court for review by the Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, after the original sentences caused a wave of anger among relatives and the local communities.

Gary Waller, Tory MP for Keighley, said after the second

hearing that the sentence imposed by Bradford Crown Court failed to take into account the fact that Parliament has decided on a 10-year maximum sentence for cases of this kind. Jackson pleaded guilty in September 1995 to causing death by dangerous driving after he ran down John Lund, 42, who was out walking his dog near his home in Bradford.

Lord Taylor said Jackson, who had no driving licence or insurance, had turned off a main road at high speed into a narrow lane through "No Entry" signs where he struck Mr Lund and carried on without stopping. He then tried to make his car appear as if it had been stolen by smashing the steering lock and ignition, but confessed to police after his friends said they would report him.

Lord Taylor said: "The Attorney General is concerned about the level of sentence in this case. There is public concern generally about death by dangerous driving."

Daves pleaded guilty to manslaughter and aggravated vehicle taking at Teesside Crown Court. Lord Taylor said the

facts of the case were "disturbing". An elderly couple had returned from a dance club to their home in Hartlepool, and the husband, Robert Incliffe, had left his car running in the driveway to help his wife into the car and during his attempts to reverse out of the drive ran over Mr Incliffe and killed him. He drove off at speed, leaving Mr Incliffe in the road, and later abandoned the vehicle.

Daves, who had previous convictions for shoplifting, taking vehicles, obstructing police and threatening behaviour, was driving while disqualified.

A police chief later criticised the "lenient sentence" given by the Court of Appeal to Daves. Detective Chief Inspector Ray Mallon, who led the inquiry into the death, said: "In my view, the Court of Appeal paid no more than lip service to public opinion in relation to this crime."

"This is a disgraceful sentence for a crime as serious as this. It is another example of where the courts have let the public down. It seems the courts, on an extremely regular basis, fail to protect the public."



Dummy run: A waxwork of the tenor Luciano Pavarotti being delivered to the Royal College of Music, south-west London, for last night's Classic CD awards. The awards are based on voting by the readers of Classic CD magazine. Photograph: Philip Meech

Dixons PENTIUM® MULTIMEDIA PCs FROM ONLY £999

SAVE UP TO £200 WITH THIS VOUCHER

HURRY! OFFERS END TODAY

HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS

ADVENT P75 PENTIUM® MULTIMEDIA PC

- Intel Pentium® 75MHz processor.
- 8Mb RAM.
- 540Mb hard drive.
- Dual-speed CD-ROM drive.
- Comprehensive software package.

Wos £1199. In-store Price £1099.

OWN THIS PC FOR ONLY £29.99 PER MONTH APR 19.9%

COMPAQ DX4100 7106 MULTIMEDIA PC

- 8Mb RAM.
- Microsoft Windows 95.
- Quad-speed CD-ROM drive.

Wos £1199. In-store Price £1099.

COMPAQ 7150 P75 PENTIUM® MULTIMEDIA PC

- Intel Pentium® 75MHz processor.
- 8Mb RAM and 540Mb hard drive.
- Quad-speed CD-ROM drive.

Wos £1599. In-store Price £1449.

HEWLETT PACKARD 6400 COLOUR INKJET PRINTER

- Up to 4 pages per minute.
- Auto sheet feeder.

In-store Price £349.99.

CANON BJ200EX BUBBLEJET COLOUR PRINTER

- Up to 4 pages per min (mono).
- 360 x 360 dpi resolution.
- 64K memory buffer. COLOUR.

Dixons's Deal £299.99. In-store Price £189.99.

CANON BJ200EX BUBBLEJET COLOUR PRINTER

- Up to 4 pages per min (mono).
- 360 x 360 dpi resolution.
- 64K memory buffer. COLOUR.

Dixons's Deal £299.99. In-store Price £189.99.

Packard Bell BRITAIN'S BEST-SELLING MULTIMEDIA PCs

Perfect for work, education, reference, games and communications - buy with confidence. Expert leaders in the computer field.

PACKARD BELL 9015 DX4/75 MULTIMEDIA PC

- Intel DX4/75MHz processor.
- 8Mb RAM and 420Mb hard drive.
- Quad-speed CD-ROM drive.

Wos £1199. In-store Price £1099.

PACKARD BELL 9015 P75 PENTIUM® MULTIMEDIA PC

- Intel Pentium® 75MHz processor.
- 8Mb RAM and 420Mb hard drive.
- Quad-speed CD-ROM drive.

Wos £1199. In-store Price £1099.

PACKARD BELL 9060 P75 PENTIUM® MULTIMEDIA PC

- Intel Pentium® 75MHz processor.
- 8Mb RAM and 420Mb hard drive.
- Quad-speed CD-ROM drive.

Wos £1199. In-store Price £1099.

APPLE PC/PRINTER PACKAGE - SAVE £100

- Apple 6500 Multimedia PC.
- Apple StyleWriter II printer.

Wos £1499. In-store Price £1399.

TOP BRAND PRINTERS - SAVE UP TO £50

- Hewlett Packard DeskJet 400 Colour Inkjet Printer.
- Up to 3 pages per minute print speed.

Wos £229.99. In-store Price £179.99.

CANON BJ-30 BUBBLEJET PRINTER

- Up to 2 pages per minute.
- 336K memory buffer.
- 20 resident fonts.

Wos £189.99. In-store Price £139.99.

EPSON STYLUS 820 INKJET PRINTER

- Up to 2.5 pages per minute.
- Maximum 720dpi resolution.

Wos £199.99. In-store Price £149.99.

CANON BJ200 INKJET PRINTER

- Up to 2.5 pages per minute.
- Maximum 720dpi resolution.

Wos £239.99. In-store Price £189.99.

Safety row as police issued with CS spray

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

The police are to use CS spray canisters containing a solvent that can cause serious injury, rather than wait for a safer alternative to be developed. The disclosure came as some 2,300 officers in 16 forces throughout England and Wales were issued yesterday with the hand-held sprays.

A leaked document said that chief constables were not prepared to wait until a "safe" solvent - used as propellant in the canisters - had been found. The present solvent has been shown to cause "skin reddening, scaling and blistering".

An instructor with the Metropolitan Police, who collapsed after being sprayed during pre-trials last June, suffered 50 per cent burns to an eye and burns to the forehead.

The confidential Association of Chief Police Officers' document acknowledged that there were "possible health risks" involved in using the devices, but warned that an alternative could take many months or up to two years to develop.

Police chiefs argued yesterday that they had to "balance" the potential dangers of the spray with the protection it gave their officers from violent offenders.

Liberty, the civil rights group, called for more testing and an immediate halt to the six-month trials. "It is clear from the ACPO's research that the spray causes severe eye and facial injuries," said their director, John Wadham.

Lawyers believe any injuries caused during arrests could lead to a flood of compensation claims. The Metropolitan Police instructor, who needed hospital treatment, is already attempting to sue for damages, along with a constable and retired sergeant from Surrey, for injuries they say were the

result of being sprayed with CS. Surrey and Hertfordshire police have already withdrawn from the trials because of safety fears.

The ACPO document, circulated to forces on 4 January, but leaked to the *Yorkshire Post* newspaper, says there are two options: "Firstly to await the development of a new product with a 'safe' solvent... secondly, to go ahead with the trials using the CS with [the solvent] MIBK as presently held by forces, in the knowledge of the possible health risks that have been identified."

It explained that the wait for a new "safe" product may take up to two years. "Chief constables may not feel that they are prepared to wait this long for a less than lethal option to protect officers," the document added, acknowledging that less research had been carried out on the sprays than was previously understood by ACPO.

Tony Burden, chief constable of Gwent and chairman of the association's working group on CS sprays, said yesterday: "There may be some side effects such as flaking of the skin, but this has to be balanced against the threat faced by police officers from violent persons especially those armed with weapons such as knives."

"Police officers should not be expected to be targets of such levels of violence and deserve to be properly protected."

Research has showed that up to 12 per cent of people could be unaffected by the spray. They include those who have been drinking, taking drugs or are being aggressive.

Officers have been issued with guidance on procedures to adopt once the spray has been used. Those arrested will be seen by a medical examiner and will be provided with an information sheet detailing possible side-effects on release.

THE INDEPENDENT PREMIUM BOND CHECKLINE

There is £12 million worth of Premium Bond prize money waiting to be claimed, hundreds of thousands of unpaid numbers exist. Do you hold a winning bond? Dig out your old bonds and find out by calling:

0891 111 924

Calls cost 39p per min, cheap rate, 49p per min at all other times. A Product of TIM Ltd, 4 Selsdon Way, London E14 9GL.

OWN ANY PC FROM ONLY £29.99 PER MONTH

DIXONS PC PLAN • Choose any PC package from our top brand range (this can include a printer and software) and include 36 months in-home service. • Select the repayment plan that best suits your needs (repayment over a maximum of 36 months). • Pay a minimum of 4% deposit.

Dixons THERE'S A GREAT DEAL GOING ON

345 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE. TEL: 0181-200 0200 FOR YOUR NEAREST BRANCH

مكتبة من الأمل

Mail staff to deliver new wood for Dales

NIGEL BURNHAM

The Yorkshire Dales national park yesterday announced that a new wood, named after its sponsor, the Royal Mail, is to be planted beside the Pennine Way and the River Aire at Airedale in Malhamdale, near Skipton.

Royal Mail Wood will comprise 750 broad-leaved trees, including ash, oak and rowan, paid for out of £10,000 raised by staff of Royal Mail North East.

The project, launched with the planting of the first tree next Wednesday, will be the first wood to be planted under sponsorship in the national park.

Royal Mail managers and staff will be involved in the work, helping to prepare footpaths, erecting foot bridges and organising work parties to co-ordinate the planting of the one-acre wood.

A spokesman dismissed criticism of the wood's name and objections from local conservationists, who told the national park: "Corporate sponsorship and national parks do not mix."

"There's nothing wrong with the name," said the spokesman. "We're not talking about Sherwood Forest here - it's just a little wood that reflects our desire to have a positive impact on the welfare of the community, in particular through environmental work."

Richard Witt, development officer for the Yorkshire Dales national park, said: "A lot of people might not like the name but we feel it's a small price to pay to give the landscape additional character and beauty, as well as being a vital refuge for wild animals and plants."



Well wrapped up: A model on the catwalk at the Betty Jackson show, part of London Fashion Week, yesterday. Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Inquiry over delay to hospital wing

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

The National Audit Office is to launch a full investigation into a four-year delay and huge cost over-runs at a proposed new wing to Guy's Hospital in south London. The former Philip Harris House, once proclaimed as a flagship, state-of-the-art creation, is fast becoming the biggest building disaster in the health service's history.

The NAO - the Government spending watchdog - confirmed it is to follow up a preliminary investigation with a full inquiry into the reasons for delay and cost over-runs in a project now expected to be four years late and to have cost £152m, almost double the original £79m estimate.

Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat MP for Bermondsey, claimed figures he has been provided with show that the NHS Trust has "wasted" millions following the latest round of negotiations with the contractors Higgs and Hill.

He said the trust has written-off £5m in penalties for missed completion deadlines, and agreed another £2m to complete a building now known as Phase Three after Sir Philip Harris withdrew a promised £5m donation when its use was changed as part of the controversial merger of Guy's and St Thomas's hospitals.

Mr Hughes said: "The building will be four years late and yet instead of the trust being compensated by the builders they are actually paying out. It is a scandal that it has taken so long for it to be completed when we are crying out for the services it is meant to provide."

England faces double-inflation council tax rise

WILL BENNETT

People living in the most modest homes in Liverpool will pay more council tax than the wealthiest inhabitants of Westminster when council tax bills in England rise by more than double the rate of inflation in April.

According to two surveys published yesterday, the average rise will be about 6 per cent - less than the 8 per cent increase predicted by the Government across the United Kingdom. But the final figure will rise when tax details from some London councils are published.

Liverpool is likely to set the highest rate, with a recommendation for a Band D tax of £100.82, an increase of 3.9 per cent. Even the most modest homes in Band A there will face a rate of £667.21, which is more than the inhabitant of a large house in Westminster, who is

likely to face a bill of £590 in Band H, the highest.

Labour-controlled Southwark, in south London, yesterday revealed that its council tax will go up from £589 to £730 on Band D properties in the middle of the price range, an increase of nearly 24 per cent. The figure was published too late to be included in either survey.

Martin Pilgrim, finance under secretary at the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, warned that rises could have been much higher but councils were cutting expenditure and drawing heavily on reserves to keep tax increases down.

Tory-controlled Westminster City Council is using £8.3m of reserves to keep the council tax bill for Band D properties down to £295, a 7 per cent rise. A 20 per cent increase had been recommended by the council's chief executive.

One of the surveys was

compiled by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy for BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, which obtained figures for council tax rises from two-thirds of the billing authorities in England. The tax raises the difference between the amount councils budget to spend and the money they receive from central government.

The survey reveals that average bills for properties in Band D will increase by £37 to £946, a 6.1 per cent increase. The increases are highest in the West Midlands (7.4 per cent), Greater London (7.3 per cent) and the rest of South-east England (6.9 per cent) and lowest in northern England (4.9 per cent). The rate of inflation was 2.9 per cent in January.

The second survey, which was carried out by the *Local Government Chronicle*, which covered more than one-third of English councils, comes up with a similar figure, an average rise of 6.1 per cent or £35.60. It shows huge differences between individual councils.

The biggest rise found by this survey is in Rochester, Kent, where the Band D increase will be 17.9 per cent, followed by Cherwell, Oxfordshire, with 16.1 per cent and Wolverhampton with 15.2 per cent. A 10.3 per cent rise in Hartlepool, Cleveland, will push the Band D rate to £839.

Scots face average council tax rises of 15% - but for many the rise could be far higher. Scottish councils, which meet next week to fix budgets warn of big rises and spending cuts.

How the increases compare

	Average Band D equivalent			Total rise
	1995-96	96-97	% Increase	
Greater London	£575.60	£617.80	7.3	£42.00
Met districts	678.41	725.58	7.0	47.18
Non-Met districts	596.74	629.42	5.5	32.68
All England	609.11	648.08	6.1	38.97
<hr/>				
South-west (excl London)	568.06	607.04	6.9	38.98
East Anglia	569.32	596.23	6.2	26.91
East Midlands	632.09	664.52	5.1	32.43
Northern	677.45	710.47	4.9	33.02
North-west	705.98	744.86	5.5	38.88
South-west	596.49	623.63	4.6	27.15
West Midlands	612.97	658.53	7.4	45.56
Yorkshire and Humberside	630.96	659.90	4.6	28.94

Family to sue hospital

A coroner yesterday recorded a misadventure verdict on a teenager who died after routine cosmetic surgery to have her "sloping back". The family of Janine Connor, 14, are now planning to sue the hospital where the operation took place.

After the inquest, Janine's mother, Mrs Margaret Usher, said it was "horrendous" that 10 doctors in the operating theatre at Withington Hospital, Manchester, were unable to work life-saving equipment because it was so old that none of them was trained to use it.

The two-day inquest heard how Janine, of Ashton-under-Lyne, agreed to surgery on 4 January last year under general anaesthetic after originally intending to have a local anaesthetic. An anaesthetist noticed that her face was swelling as she

came round and Janine then suffered a cardiac arrest.

Doctors said gas was not escaping from her body after being pumped in by a ventilator and this affected her heart.

When doctors tried to give her electric shocks from two 25-year-old defibrillator machines, they were unable to because they did not know that at least 5lb of pressure had to be applied to the paddles on her chest. Up to 10 minutes were lost before a third defibrillator, which could be used, was found.

Eventually, doctors had to cut open her chest and manually massage her heart. But Janine never regained consciousness and died six days later at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, in Pendlebury.

Giving his verdict, Mr Coppel said the 20-year-old ventila-

tor machine used was regarded as "a good solid workhorse" and the mystery of what had gone wrong to cause Janine's breathing problem remained unresolved.

On the use of the defibrillators - which were regularly maintained - he added: "None of them knew about the old-fashioned *modus operandi* though there was a set of written instructions. I suppose under pressure one doesn't look to see something in writing."

Neil Kinsella, solicitor for the family, said they had been granted legal aid to pursue a negligence claim. "At this stage there is no satisfactory explanation of what went wrong to cause Janine to go into cardiac arrest. The chances of her being resuscitated look as though they were reduced."

"The lowest-cost mortgages over the last 5 years from any major high street lender."

What Mortgage awards 1996



As our two What Mortgage awards confirm, C&G's commitment to reducing mortgage costs is paying dividends, helped in no small measure by our Mortgage Price Promise.

And our Promise means our standard variable mortgage rate is currently down to a competitive 7.24% 7.5% APR.

There's no valuation fee to pay with any C&G mortgage and our 'no strings' policy means we don't charge mortgage indemnity premiums and we don't insist you buy your insurance from us.

With a C&G Cash Gift Mortgage you also receive up to £7,500 as a gift just a few days after you take out your mortgage. The Cash Gift will be equal to 3% of the amount you borrow.

You can even arrange your mortgage by phone through C&G Mortgage Direct if visiting a branch is inconvenient.

For details of how you could benefit from these offers, including our Mortgage Price Promise, visit your nearest C&G or Lloyds Bank branch or call us today.

CALL US NOW. RING FREE ON
0800 272 131
OR FAX 01452 373 681
INTERNET: www.cheltglos.co.uk

To: Cheltenham & Gloucester,
FREEPOST, Gloucester GL4 7BR.

Please send me details of your Cash Gift Mortgage and Mortgage Price Promise (I am over the age of 18)

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____ Initial(s) _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel. _____

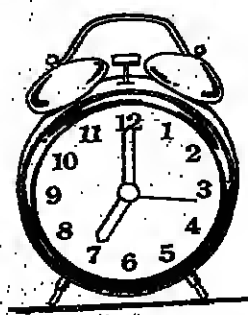
C&G

Cheltenham & Gloucester

We're run to make you richer

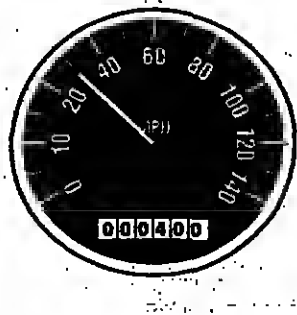
CORK & KERRY. BEAT THE CLOCK!

SLEEP OVER
ARRIVING AT 7am

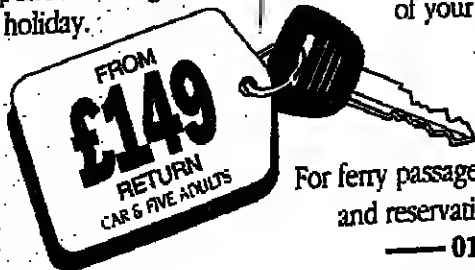


Departing Swansea at 9.00pm, arriving in Cork 7.00am, and all cabins ensuite, guarantees you a good night sleep and the perfect starting time for your holiday.

SAVE OVER
400 MILES OF DRIVING



And while you rested you've already saved up to 200 miles of tiring driving, with a further 200 to save on the return trip. 400 miles saved and not a day of your holiday lost.



For ferry passage, holiday brochure and reservations, telephone

01792
456116

or contact your local travel agent

SWANSEA CORK FERRIES
Miles ahead of the rest

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT

What Mortgage awards 1996: Best value-for-money standard variable rate mortgages over the last 2 and 5 years, of all national building societies and banks, based on a loan of £50,000.

057 0715 47

international

British businessman expelled by Moscow

PHIL REEVES
Moscow

The Foreign Office said yesterday it was seeking an explanation from Moscow over why a British businessman has been thrown out of Russia for "activities incompatible with his status" – a Cold War-era term used to denote spying.

It is the second time Nigel Shakespear, a former assistant military attaché with the British embassy, has felt the wrath of the Moscow authorities, as he was among eight British diplomats and three journalists who were thrown out in May 1989 after the same number of Russian diplomats and media workers were ordered out of Britain.

The move is further evidence of Russia's erratic relations with the West, which have veered from warm enthusiasm to cool uncertainty in the last few months, and have given rise

to fears that the new Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, has hard-line tendencies. Mr Shakespear, 46, was ordered aboard a flight to London by Russian officials after flying into Sheremetyevo airport from a 10-day business trip to Kazakhstan. He had been working in Moscow for Gorandel Trading, which offers security and risk management.

Although the officials supplied him with no explanation for their decision at the time – it happened on 15 February, but details only emerged yesterday – the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the security services (the heirs to the KGB) had found "negative elements in his activities" which were "not compatible" with his status as a businessman.

"He was not expelled. His visa was terminated," said Alexander Golitsin, a senior Foreign Ministry official. He

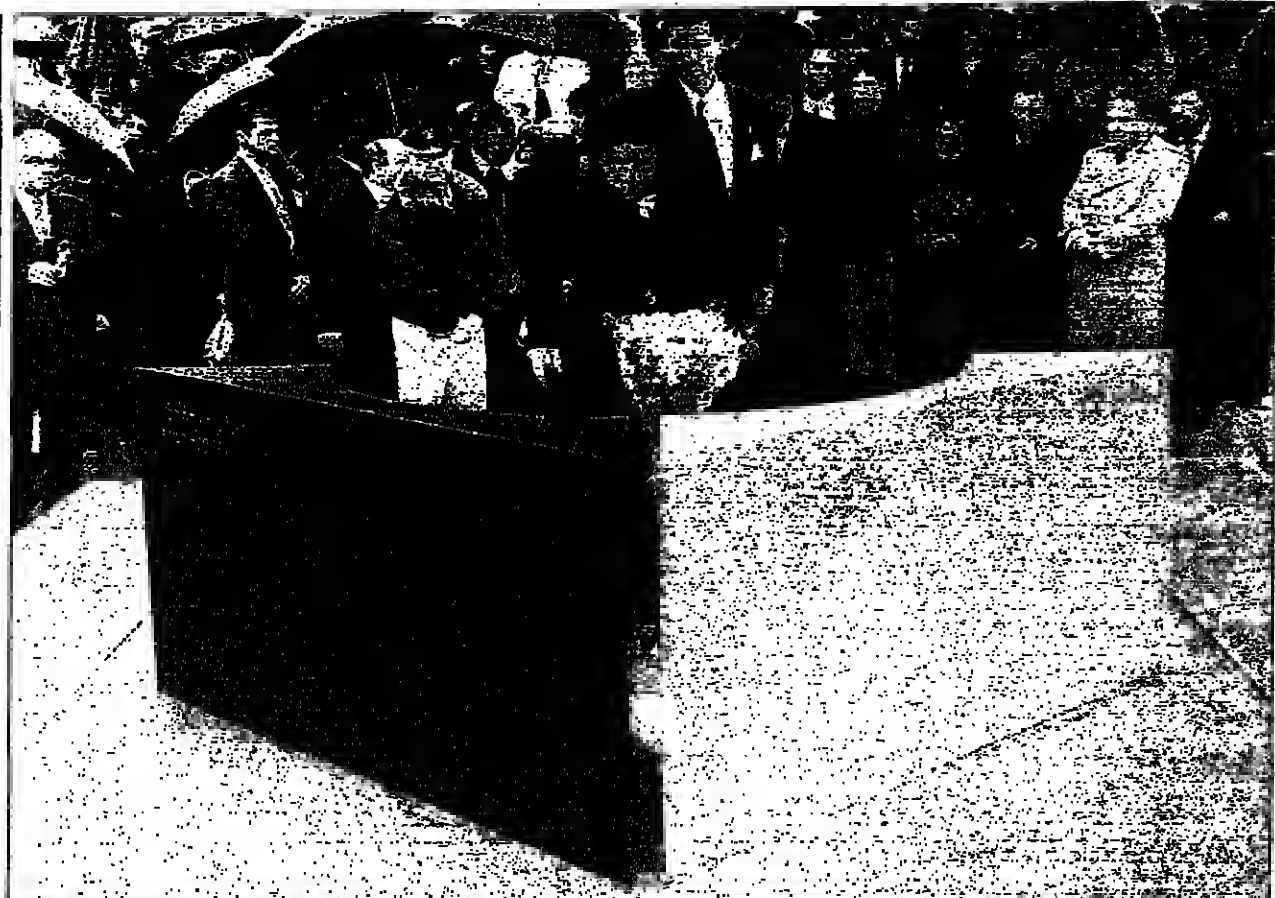
suggested spying might be "too strong" a word for the allegations against Mr Shakespear, yet hinted that the move was related to the Briton's former job as a diplomat. The affair would not affect the "friendly relations" between Russia and the United Kingdom, he added.

Mr Shakespear, speaking from north London, rejected any suggestion that he had been a spy: "I categorically deny it. My response is that the charge is totally unjustified." He refused to speculate over why he had been expelled, saying that he had no idea and that it was "totally unfair".

The British embassy in Moscow said that it had not been told why Mr Shakespear was forced to leave the country, and was seeking clarification. But the Foreign Office has made clear that it regards the manner in which he was abruptly sent home as unacceptable.

He had no opportunity to contact diplomats or his family before being ushered on to a plane. "We shall be raising his treatment – and particularly his treatment at the airport – with the Russians," said James Pavel, an embassy spokesman. Mr Shakespear began travelling to Russia in 1992. Thirteen months ago he moved to Moscow permanently, with his wife, Rosalind and child, Clara. Until January, he worked with accountants Price Waterhouse, before leaving to work for Gorandel, believed to be a British-Russian joint venture. Robin Hall, a former colleague at Price Waterhouse, said: "As far as I know, he was completely unaware the Russian authorities had him down as a spy."

A steady trickle of expulsions for alleged spying have continued. Last July Alexander Malikov, a Russian journalist, left Britain accused of spying.



Yitzhak Rabin's widow, Leah, lays flowers on his tomb in Jerusalem yesterday. Photograph: David Silverman/Reuters

Israel spurns Hamas offer to halt bombing

PATRICK COCKBURN
Jerusalem

Israel yesterday rejected an offer by the Hamas Islamic militant organisation to call off its suicide bombing campaign in return for the release of its prisoners and immunity from revenge.

Ehud Barak, the Foreign Minister, said that Israel could not undercut Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, which "must do the job". Hamas and Izzedine al-Qassim, its military wing, had issued a joint statement saying there would be no more attacks for a week while its offer is being considered.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman had given his own deadline for all unregistered weapons in the areas he controls to be handed over by last night. Otherwise his security forces would start searches for arms, threatening people who hold unregistered weapons with 15 years in prison.

"In general, Israel does not negotiate with the terror cells of Hamas," Mr Barak said. Earlier in the week Israel was reported to have said to Mr Arafat that if he would not deal with Hamas, it might open talks with the organisation.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, has also said that if Mr Arafat does not rein in extremists, Israel may delay the troop withdrawal in the West Bank town of Hebron due at the end of this month.

Mr Peres has warned that the Israeli closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, barring 60,000 Palestinian workers from reaching their jobs inside Israel, will stay in effect until the security situation improves.

The border closures, thought

to be costing the Palestinian economy \$4m (£2.6m) a day in lost wages and exports, have caused a backlash against Hamas among Palestinians who have blamed the group for their financial hardships.

Israeli security services say that the orders to launch the suicide bomb attacks last Sunday, which killed 23 Israelis, were given by the Hamas leadership in Damascus. Izzedine al-Qassim in Gaza says it was not involved, which, if true, means that Hamas is split. This is precisely what Mr Arafat has been trying to achieve in the past, but the fragmentation of the organisation makes it more difficult to control.

Labour party strategists have little doubt that more suicide bombs will mean that it will certainly lose the election to be held on 29 May. The bombs have strengthened the opposition Likud bloc by persuading David Levy, the former foreign minister, to lead his small breakaway party, Geshet, back into the fold in return for seven guaranteed seats in the Knesset (parliament).

Mr Levy has reportedly been offered the post of foreign minister in a future Likud government.

In the latest poll carried out by the daily *Ma'ariv*, 7 per cent of voters said they had switched from Labour to Likud because of the bomb attacks. Mr Peres led Binyamin Netanyahu, the opposition leader, by 46 per cent to 44 per cent. Two-thirds of voters thought the Israeli army should operate against organisations like Hamas in territory controlled by Mr Arafat.

A similar proportion said they still supported the peace process with the Palestinians.

Gorbachev joins race for presidency

TONY BARBER
Europe Editor

Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet president and Nobel Peace Prize winner, said yesterday he would stand as a candidate in Russia's presidential election in June.

Mr Gorbachev, who is 65 today, made the announcement at a news conference in Moscow at which he portrayed himself as a centrist alternative to President Boris Yeltsin and the leading challenger, Gennady Zyuganov of the Communist Party.

Recent opinion polls suggest Mr Gorbachev has almost no hope of winning the presidency. Whereas Mr Zyuganov consistently scores 20 per cent or more in the polls, and Mr Yeltsin scores about 10 per cent, Mr Gorbachev's popularity rating is barely 1 per cent.

"His time is past," said Sergei Shakhrai, a former minister in Mr Yeltsin's government. "Intellectuals and the West recognise his merits, but that's not enough to win the election."

Mr Gorbachev said he hoped to unite "all democratic forces" behind his candidacy, but it is difficult to see where his support might come from.

Most ordinary voters, in so far as they think of him at all, appear to hold him responsible for the political chaos and economic slump that turned their lives upside down in the late Soviet period.

Nor does he command much sympathy in Russian political



Gorbachev: Slim chance

circles. Reformists blame him for refusing, when he was president, to make a decisive break with Communism and the principle of a united Soviet state, while Communists and nationalists despise him as a traitor.

By throwing his hat into the ring, Mr Gorbachev seems to be calculating that he may at least succeed in disrupting the election campaign of Mr Yeltsin, his bitter rival. The two men have been at odds since 1987, when Mr Gorbachev forced Mr Yeltsin's dismissal from the inner Soviet leadership.

Mr Yeltsin secured his revenge by becoming the champion of the democratic opposition, winning the Russian presidency in June 1991 and organising the dissolution of the Soviet Union after the failed August hardline coup. Mr Gorbachev, who is not a member of a political party, needs 1 million signatures of support by 16 April to be registered as a candidate in the 16 June election.



Have a shot at winning a trip to the 1996 Olympic Games with Visa.
Apply for a NatWest Visa card.

The atmosphere's electric, the crowd goes wild, it's a new world record. And you could be right there in the heart of it to witness sports history in the making. If you win our fantastic competition.

All you have to do to enter, is apply for a NatWest Visa card straight away, correctly answer five questions and complete the tie breaker.

The winner will enjoy a fabulous all-expenses-paid five day trip for two to the

Olympic Games, plus \$500 spending money. Twenty runners-up will each receive a super Kodak Cameo camera.

Call 0800 616 848

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 8.00am to 8.00pm
WEEKENDS 9.00am to 4.00pm

Closing date for entries is 30 April 1996, so get off the starting blocks. To obtain your NatWest Visa card application form, either call 0800 616 848, send off the coupon or pop into your nearest NatWest branch.

Please complete and return to: National Westminster Bank Plc, Visa Olympic Competition, Credit Cards, FREEPOST, 4 Eastcheap, London EC3A 3JL

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms	Initials
Surname	
Address	
Postcode	



NatWest
More than just a bank



Closing date for entries 30 April 1996

Credit Cards are only available to persons aged 18 or over and subject to status and conditions. NatWest Visa APR 23.4% for purchases and 25.3% for cash advances (subject to cash handling fee), including the purchase of foreign currency and travellers' cheques. The annual fee is £12. If the Principal Cardholder maintains both NatWest Access and Visa accounts, one annual fee is chargeable and such fee may be charged to either account. The APR for the account without the annual fee will be 21.9% for purchases and 23.8% for cash advances (subject to a cash handling fee), including the purchase of foreign currency and travellers' cheques. If the outstanding balance on your monthly statement is less than £5, you must pay it off by the due date shown on your statement. If your outstanding balance is more than £5, you must pay £5 or 3% of the outstanding balance, whichever is the greater. A cash handling fee of £1.50, is payable on each cash advance and the purchase of foreign currency and travellers' cheques. An administration levy of 2.75% of the transaction amount is payable on each foreign currency transaction. The interest rate, the annual fee and cash handling fee may vary.

مکان العمل

Bangkok summit: EU states duck rights issues to avoid a damaging rift with world's strongest economies

Major calls for UN to put its house in order

DONALD MACINTYRE
Bangkok

John Major made a plea for rapid reform in the United Nations yesterday at the EU-Asia economic summit, as most European leaders agreed to avoid confrontation with China and South-East-Asian economic powers over human rights.

Mr Major pressed the case for streamlining the UN and putting it on a firm financial footing following estimates that it could "run out of money in November". The Prime Minister said it would be "ludicrous" for the UN to go bust and warned it "must not be allowed to grind to a halt".

He urged Asian countries to back EU proposals for tough penalties on non-payers, to accelerate the payment of arrears and reform contributions to take account of the relative wealth of members.

Mr Major, who won strong support from Thailand for his call for UN reforms, will today call for the liberalisation of Asian markets.

The threat of a walk-out by Indonesia, led by President Suharto, if Portugal used the summit to resume attacks on

human rights abuses in East Timor was averted when the Portuguese Prime Minister, Antonio Guterres, talked informally to the Mr Suharto in the fringes of the summit. The Portuguese leader suggested a resumption of diplomatic contacts between the two countries, which elicited a non-committal response from Mr Suharto.

The Europeans' desire to avoid conflict over human rights reflects the importance attached by the EU to expanding trade relations with the fastest growing economies in the world. Mr Major has repeatedly pointed out that the countries at the summit account for more than half the world's Gross Domestic Product.

Jacques Santer, the EU Commission President, made a plea for Asian countries to accept the Single European Market "has greatly improved the opportunities for third countries to do business in the European Union".

In a thinly disguised appeal to Asian countries to lower barriers against EU exports, he pointed out that 40 per cent of imports of manufactured goods would be duty-free, while tariffs on other products would be cut by a third in the next decade.

Leon Brittan, the EU Trade Commissioner, has been active pressing Asian countries to open up their vast telecommunications markets, to secure a worldwide liberalisation agreement by the April deadline set by the World Trade Organisation. An aide to Sir Leon admitted they failed to draw a clear response and added: "We are into the last five weeks so it is a very urgent process."

In meetings with the Chinese government, Sir Leon pressed for the level of liberalisation that would enable China to qualify for WTO membership. Sir Leon told the Prime Minister, Li Peng, that China needed to end the monopoly of state organisations running import and export businesses, reduce tariffs and liberalise the car industry. He said if Peking took such steps the EU would back its membership of WTO.

Sir Leon urged Peking to stop restricting the free flow of economic information through overseas news agencies, saying it violated the WTO principles.

He also pressed Li Peng to accept Hong Kong's continued importance as an entrepreneurial centre, and was assured its "capitalism" would survive the handover to China.

Chinese try to calm fears over ill dissident

TERESA POOLE
Peking

Wei Jingsheng, China's most prominent pro-democracy dissident, is in good health apart from hypertension and "a fatty liver", the Chinese government announced yesterday. The unusual medical bulletin on the country's best-known political prisoner followed reports from relatives that Mr Wei, who is 46, was suffering from heart disease, and comes just weeks before China is likely to face attempted elections at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

Last November, the closed court trial of Mr Wei had to be halted for nearly half an hour when he suffered an attack of high blood pressure. The judges later sentenced him to 15 years for attempting to overthrow the government, and since January he has been kept in solitary confinement at the Nanpu

saltsworks about three hours' drive from Peking, occupying the same cell in which he spent the latter part of his earlier 14-year jail term. Since March 1979, Mr Wei has spent only six months out of prison.

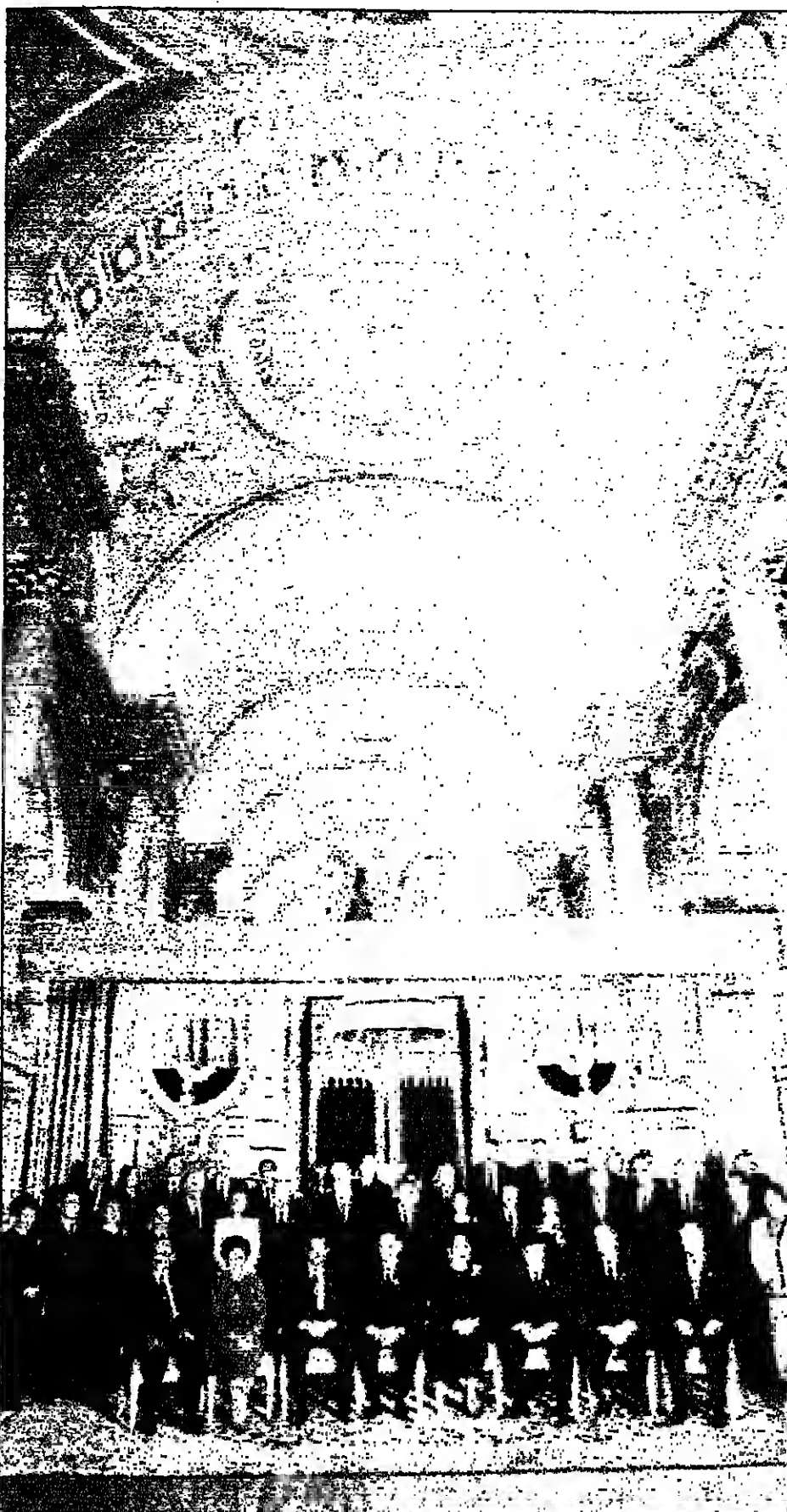
Support is growing around the world for Mr Wei's nomination for this year's Nobel Peace Prize. Yesterday, 110 British MPs from all parties signed a Commons motion calling for his immediate release from prison and backing the Nobel nomination. He was also nominated in 1995.

The Xinhua news agency announcement appeared timed for the run-up to the Geneva vote. Since 1990, China has faced an annual motion, sponsored by the United States, condemning its human-rights record, although these have so far been defeated because China has lobbied support from developing countries. Mr Wei's sentence, the dispute over the choice of a new Panchen Lama in Tibet, and revelations this year on China's orphanages have put the human-rights spotlight firmly on Peking.

Xinhua said that Mr Wei had been given a thorough physical examination, including an electrocardiogram and 24-hour monitoring which had ruled out heart disease. "The prison hospital has treated Wei Jingsheng's diseases and he is now in a healthy condition," Xinhua said.

Meanwhile, new legislation was yesterday passed into law, specifying that martial law may be declared in the case of serious threats to national unity.

Analysts said the Chinese government wanted the law on the statute books before the death of 91-year-old Deng Xiaoping in case of public unrest after the paramount leader passes away.



Glittering assembly: Heads of government gathered for an official photograph in a throne-room of the King of Thailand's palace. Photograph: Kamimasa Mayama/Reuters

international

Howard set for close win in Australia

ROBERT MILLIKEN
Sydney

Buoyed by opinion polls which suggest he will be Prime Minister after today's general election, John Howard, leader of the Liberal Party, embarked on a barrage of radio and television interviews yesterday to convince swinging voters in crucial seats to end the 13-year era of Labor government.

As his strategists delivered the results of private party polls, which predicted that the conservative Liberals and their junior coalition partners, the National Party, would pick up more than the seven seats they need to topple Labor, Mr Howard displayed the solemn air of a leader who sensed that the elusive prize which he has pursued for 22 years in politics was finally within his grasp.

For his part, Paul Keating, fighting to win an unprecedented sixth term for Labor, ended his campaign the way he began it, as the underdog. Not for him the radio and television studios of Sydney, from where Mr Howard disseminated his message that Labor had left Australia with record foreign debt and youth unemployment.

The Prime Minister was in Tasmania yesterday, after spending the last three days flying thousands of miles from Cairns, in north Queensland, to Adelaide, Canberra and Melbourne, shoring up votes in Labor's most vulnerable seats and calling for a fresh mandate to continue economic and social reforms. He asked Australians to compare his vision of a new, Australian republic, economically engaged in the Asia-Pacific region with the "philosophically stranded" coalition.

"Did we build a new standard, have we created a change?" he asked. "Or do we just nod gently off back to sleep again like we did in the Rip Van Winkle years?"

Mr Keating refused to concede the game was up. And, as commentators discovered three years ago, after writing him off under similar circumstances at the last election, he could be right. Australians have rejected incumbent governments only four times since the Second

World War, in 1949, 1972, 1975 and 1983.

Voters may be fed up with the Labor government, convinced it has run out of ideas and turned off by what they perceive as Mr Keating's arrogance. But the government is not swamped by scandal or smelling of decay.

Mr Howard is making his second bid to become prime minister, after failing to dislodge Labor under Bob Hawke in 1987. If Mr Howard has a vision for Australia in the next millennium, he has failed to convey it during the campaign. That explains the grudging endorsement of the coalition in the latest opinion polls yesterday.

Having started the campaign five weeks ago trailing the coalition by 11 points, Labor closed the gap in the three main polls to finish two, three and six points behind respectively. A nationwide poll published in a Brisbane newspaper yesterday gave Labor a one-point lead, the first poll to put Labor ahead. Mr Keating maintained a lead over Mr Howard as preferred prime minister in most polls.

On election eve, it was difficult to measure the impact of the "forged-letters affair", a sensational development on Wednesday in which a senior Labor minister released letters apparently damaging to the coalition, but which later turned out to be fakes. The Labor Party yesterday issued a statement to federal police investigating the affair claiming the letters originated in Liberal Party ranks. Liberals accused Labor staff of forging them.

Three of Australia's leading newspapers, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Age* of Melbourne, and the *Australian Financial Review*, called for a coalition victory yesterday. But two influential newspapers owned by Rupert Murdoch went against the grain. The *Australian*, his national flagship, declined to endorse either side, while the *Daily Telegraph*, a mass-circulation Sydney tabloid, backed Mr Keating.

While most papers splashed headlines that predicted Mr Keating's defeat, the Murdoch papers provided upbeat coverage of the final hours of Mr Keating's campaign.

Now free calls and one second billing.

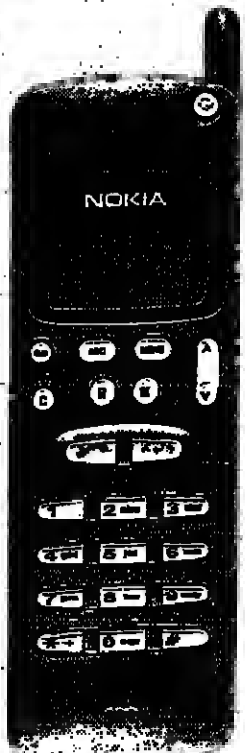
LIMITED OFFER
£9.99
INC. VAT

NOKIA
GSM MODEL 2010.

- ◆ 99 name/number memory
- ◆ 300 mins talk-time
- ◆ 30 hrs standby-time
- ◆ Complete with standard battery and rapid travel charger
- ◆ Weight approx 320g

FREE IN-CAR ADAPTOR/CHARGER
FREE SPARE BATTERY
FREE LEATHER CASE
TOGETHER WORTH OVER £75

GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND
Your phone is covered by our 14 day
no quibble money back promise.



The Nokia 2010 digital mobile phone for just £29.99 is a real bargain. And our new Vodafone PersonalWorld tariff makes it even better. Offering one-second billing for life and 50 minutes free airtime* in March, April and May.

Better still we'll even include £75 worth of free accessories. Just so you've got all you need to make the most of a package that gives you the best coverage both of the UK and overseas. Simply phone us with your credit card details to receive your phone plus valuable accessories within 4 working days.

VODAFONE PERSONALWORLD	
Connection	£35.25 (£38 + VAT)
Monthly Rental	£17.83 (£19.5 + VAT)
Peak Rate Call in UK	95.25p per min (30p + VAT)
Off Peak Rate	11.75p per min (10p + VAT)
*Free airtime: 50 minutes per month. 7,200 to 10 mins per month. Standard calling will be charged at £1.27 per min. For details of our tariff, please call 0800 000 888. Credit card payment only. Credit card payment only. Credit card payment only.	

FREE 50 MINUTES
PER MONTH
CALLS IN MARCH, APRIL & MAY

Cellphones
direct

ORDER NOW FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

FREEPHONE 0800 000 888

CREDIT CARD OR CASH ON DELIVERY. WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 7PM WEEKENDS 10AM TO 6PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND YOUR IDENTIFICATION READY WHEN YOU CALL.
OFFER SUBJECT TO CREDIT CHECK. CREDIT CHECKING SUBJECT TO ACCEPTANCE BY CREDITORS.
Offer subject to credit check and a standard service contract for your phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd. 185 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond-upon-Thames TW9 4LN.
Some services may not be available in some areas. Full details available on request. Full details available on request. Full details available on request.
© Cellphones Direct Ltd. 1995/96

Free at Boots



Free Cosmetic Bag with every two N°7 purchases.
Cosmetic Bag contains Superlash Mascara Brown/Black, Precision Brow Definer Brown/Black and Super Gentle Eye Make-up Remover 30ml.

N°7

Boots
Someone Cares

Offer available in most Boots stores from 21st February until 19th March 1996.
Subject to availability.

international

Gun battle ends hunt for Italian serial killer

ANDREW GUMBEL
Rome

The hunt for a serial killer stalking the sleepy north Italian town of Merano ended in violence yesterday as the culprit claimed two more victims, holed up in a lonely farmhouse with two hostages, and then, after a dramatic gun battle with police, turned the murder weapon on himself.

The man responsible for shooting six people at close range over the past three weeks turned out to be a German-speaking neo-Nazi committed to reunifying the Alto Adige with Austria. All but one of the victims were Italian-speakers. The alarm was raised in mid-morning when farmers in the hamlet of Rifana, about six miles from the centre of town, heard gunshots coming from the house of a local bricklayer, Tullio Melchioni. The murderer, Ferdinand Gampfer, had killed Melchioni, his landlord, and had forced his wife and daughter at gunpoint to follow him into a barn next door.

When police arrived, Gampfer barely gave them time to discover the body before he opened fire, shooting a Carabinieri officer in the head. The officer was whisked to hospital but died three hours later.

Other police took cover in the surrounding woodland. Eventually they fired several volleys of tear gas into the barn, setting the building on fire. The shooting stopped and the police stormed in, to find the two hostages unharmed on the ground floor and the murderer dead with his weapon in his hand. A note in German read: "You got here too late." He had shot himself through the mouth.

With his hulking frame, blond hair and short beard, Ferdinand Gampfer, 39, was a perfect fit for the Identikit picture of the murderer developed since the shooting of a factory worker in Merano's main square on Tuesday.

Next to his body was the blue rucksack that was spotted by several witnesses. The gun was a match for the 22 weapon used in the earlier killings.

Among the documents recovered by police were posters and stickers in German, advocating the Alto Adige's reabsorption into Austria. A long note left beside Melchioni's body included a "terrifying" pact to Nazism and an admission, which has yet to be verified, that Gampfer murdered one or more children.

Merano had been living in fear since 8 February, when a senior Bundesbank official and his Italian fiancée were shot. At first investigators suspected a link with the banker's work or his estranged German wife. They now believe the two were "punished" for wanting to settle in Merano as an ethnically mixed couple. A shrine marking the site of their murder was smeared with human faeces a few days after their deaths.

The third murder, targeting a crippled local farmer, triggered the arrest of a young Italian-speaking plasterer, Luca Nobili, who was found near the scene with bloodstains on his clothing. He was released from custody last night.

The Alto Adige, or South Tyrol, was part of Austria-Hungary until the end of the First World War, when it was given to Italy. It was dogged by ethnic tension, owing to Mussolini's aggressive attempts to Italianise it during the 1930s there were regular terrorist attacks.

In recent decades, the nationalist sentiments of the German-speakers and the strong neo-fascist sympathies of many local Italians have been checked by the economic benefits brought by the Alto Adige's special status as an autonomous region. However, the two communities still have little contact, and in many bars, shops and hotels, members of one or other ethnic group are banned altogether.



Cream of the crop: A Dutch crew filming 'The Milkmaid' at the opening of an exhibition of paintings by Johannes Vermeer at the Mauritshuis in The Hague. The collection of works by the artist is the largest assembled under one roof. Photograph: Laurie Lewis

Serb charged over role in Sarajevo siege

EMMA DALY
Sarajevo

The international war-crimes tribunal in The Hague yesterday charged a Bosnian Serb general with crimes against humanity for abetting the siege of Sarajevo, which killed more than 10,000 people and wounded 50,000.

Hours after the Bosnian government declared that the blockade was over - in practice it ended in December after the arrival of Nato troops - the UN tribunal indicted Lieutenant-General Djordje Djukic, a Yugoslav Army officer who ran the Bosnian Serbs' logistics operations.

The general was indicted for aiding and abetting the siege in which "Bosnian Serb military forces, on a widespread and systematic basis, deliberately or indiscriminately fired on civilian targets that were of no military significance in order to kill, injure, terrorise and demoralise the civilian population".



Djukic: Organised weapons

The general's lawyer, Milan Vujan, was contemptuous: "This contains one fact; that General Djukic is in the Bosnian Serb army," he said. "If that is all they have, we can get the trial over today. Yes, he's in the Bosnian Serb army. There's not one other fact here."

General Djukic fell into the hands of his alleged victims on 30 January, when his driver took a wrong turn into Sarajevo and was stopped by Bosnian

police. They arrested General Djukic and Colonel Aleksa Krstanovic, a colleague, prompting an angry response from Bosnian Serb leaders in Pale, who severed ties with the Nato peace force (I-For).

Two weeks later, General Djukic and Colonel Krstanovic were dispatched on a Nato plane to The Hague for investigation, to the rage - and fear - of their military and political masters. Both men refused to co-operate with the tribunal as witnesses; the Chief Prosecutor's response was to indict General Djukic and extend the colonel's detention.

"Being unable to continue to regard General Djukic as a witness we have had the opportunity of considering evidence we have against him," Judge Richard Goldstone said yesterday. "Whilst our investigations... are not yet complete, we considered that in respect of two counts there is sufficient evidence to justify indicting General Djukic."

Judge Goldstone said the indictment was likely to be amended as investigations continued. General Djukic was already known to the tribunal; his name figured in evidence attached to the earlier indictments on war crimes of Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, the political and military leaders of the Bosnian Serb forces.

Most Bosnian Serbs were angered by the arrest of General Djukic, arguing that he and Colonel Krstanovic were "backroom boys" who could not have blood on their hands.

But both had an important role in organising the siege, which ended formally yesterday when Bosnian police took control of the Serb-held suburb of Iljasi, linking the city to government territory for the first time since May 1992.

Both men could bring down bigger prey, perhaps even President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia. Despite the routine

denials from Belgrade, it is clear Serbia's help was crucial to the war effort of its Bosnian clients. General Djukic is an officer in both the Yugoslav and Bosnian Serb armies.

General Djukic, due in court on Monday to enter a plea, is unlikely to face trial for months. The only other suspect in detention, Dusan Jadic, is expected to stand trial on 7 May, more than a year after his extradition from Germany to The Hague. Both he and General Djukic are hoisted in a specially built cell-block in Scheveningen prison.

Colonel Krstanovic will be another neighbour for at least a month, held as a possible suspect and witness. Judge Goldstone is considering whether to indict him or release him to the Bosnian authorities, who would pursue their own case against him. The colonel refused to attend earlier hearings because he does not recognise the tribunal. He may now consider the role of turncoat preferable to that of defendant.

Spanish set for life after Gonzalez

ELIZABETH NASH
Madrid

The two main contenders in Spain's general election concluded their campaigns yesterday with an appeal to uncommitted voters, possibly 20 per cent of the electorate, whose decision tomorrow could determine whether the opposition conservative Popular Party wins an absolute majority.

The PP, under Jose Maria Aznar, has campaigned for change and renewal. In his final message yesterday he insisted on the need for a changeover and promised strong, efficient government. Lifting the concept of fear from the Socialists' vocabulary, he urged voters not to be afraid to opt for "the change that Spain needs".

The Prime Minister, Felipe Gonzalez, has defended what he calls the historical changes his 13-year government achieved. At the climax of a campaign marked by warnings of the return of the right, he recalled the old Republican slogan of the civil war: "No pasaron" (They shall not pass). The cry still stirs the heart of many Spanish progressives, though younger voters may find it mystifying.

Mr Gonzalez urged left-wingers not to waste their votes on the pro-Communist United Left, led by Julio Anguita, which, by dividing the left, amounted to a vote for the PP. In his final radio interview yesterday, Mr Gonzalez regretted corruption had damaged his government, and admitted it had wounded him. But he defended his former interior minister Jose Barrionuevo, accused by the Supreme Court of masterminding a dirty war against ETA separatists in the 1980s.

In the closing days of the campaign each leader mobilised a clique of show-business figures. Julio Iglesias, an erstwhile Gonzalez fan, mounted the platform at a PP rally to pledge himself to the conservative cause "with my soul and with my head" and passionately kissed Mr Aznar's hand.

The Socialists won the support of the Andalusian-born Hollywood star Antonio Banderas, who sent them a video in which he says "I continue to believe in Felipe Gonzalez as a statesman".

Disneyland® Paris announces its latest attraction. The price.

TWO ADULTS
TWO CHILDREN
£79
PER PERSON
TWO NIGHTS
TRAVEL
INCLUSIVE.

Indiana Jones™ and the Temple of Peril, Big Thunder Mountain and, of course, Space Mountain - the greatest adventure in the universe. Disneyland Paris has always had plenty of attractions for the whole family.

Even the prices are an attraction in their own right; from 10th-13th and 17th-20th March 1996, a family of four can enjoy three great days of fun and excitement for just £79 each.

This includes a return ferry crossing for one car, two nights at the Hotel Santo Fe, continental breakfast and, best of all, unlimited entry to the Park.

To book this very attractive offer, call us now on the number below.

Disneyland® PARIS
Someone you know can't wait to go.
0990 03 03 03

*Based on two adults and two children (11 years old and under) sharing a room. Offer is applicable for two night packages starting on any day within the specified dates. Theme Park Tickets can also be purchased independently from the Disney Store, both Previews and participating agencies, at a rate of £22 per adult or £14 per child for City Point.

To receive your free Disneyland Paris Brochure, send the completed coupon to: Disneyland Paris, FREEPOST, P.O. Box 200, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 9HY.

Name: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____

Home address: _____

Postcode: _____ Telephone: _____

From time to time we may wish to send you additional mailings. If you do not want to receive these please tick this box ☐

Ref No: 6/2003

The COOPERATIVE BANK



In debt? How does 1% a month sound? (12.6% APR variable)

Get a Co-operative Bank Visa Card and you can transfer your existing balance from any other major credit card company at just 1% per month (12.6% APR variable). So, if you owe say £3,000 on a Barclays or NatWest Bank credit card you could save up to £290 over two years.* More good news: we guarantee you will never

ever be charged an annual fee for your card. Think what that could save you over a lifetime. You don't even have to bank with us. We guarantee to match the credit card limit you currently enjoy. (Our Gold Card carries a £3,000 minimum credit limit.) It's an unbeatable offer, so call us free now.

Guaranteed free for life.

Pay off your existing balance at 12.6% APR variable.

Save up to £290 on your debt.*

Keep your credit limit.

Gold Card limit £3,000.

0800 99 5000

Call free quoting reference no. 72713 or post the coupon

Post via Visa Card dept., Co-operative Bank p.l.c., FREEPOST (M18)192, Manchester M1 9AZ or phone 0800 99 5000 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Please use block capitals.

Full name _____ Address _____

Postcode _____ Phone number _____

Please tick card interested in ☐ Visa Card ☐ Gold Visa Card

THE BANK MAY DECLINE ANY APPLICATION. CREDIT FACILITIES ARE SUBJECT TO STATUS AND NOT AVAILABLE TO MINORS. CUSTOMERS MUST USE THE CARD AT LEAST 10 TIMES PER YEAR. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. *EXAMPLE IS BASED ON A TRANSFER BALANCE OF £3,000. THE BALANCE IS REPAYED IN FULL OVER A PERIOD OF 24 MONTHS. AND PAYMENTS ARE MADE AT DATES AFTER STATEMENT DATES. BARCLAYS BANK VISA CARD @ 22.9% APR WOULD COST £495. NATWEST VISA CARD @ 15.9% APR WOULD COST £274. CO-OPERATIVE BANK CREDIT CARD @ 12.6% APR WOULD COST £114. ALL RATES CORRECT AS AT 11.1.96.

هكذا من الأمل

US to guard Cuban exiles' ocean protest

PHIL DAVISON
Miami

US Coast Guard vessels and aircraft will attempt to keep the peace today as Cuban-Americans sail and fly from Miami in a protest-cum-memorial demonstration to within 20 miles of the Cuban coast. The exiles plan to toss wreaths and candles into the Straits of Florida in the area where four exiles were shot down in two small planes by Cuban MiG fighters a week earlier.

With relations between Bill Clinton and Fidel Castro at their lowest point to date, the President's order for a heavy Coast Guard escort - with Air Force fighters and naval vessels on standby in Florida and the Caribbean - appeared aimed as much at keeping the exiles in check as protecting them from any further Cuban attack.

The US warned the exiles, ex-

pected to sail in up to 40 private boats with two light aircraft overhead, that they would face civil and criminal penalties if they tried to provoke Mr Castro by pushing ahead into Cuba's 12-mile territorial waters. The organisers have promised not to but there were some fears here last night that the most radical anti-Castro activists may break ranks.

Some moderate exiles expressed fears that any unforeseen incident could create confusion in the US response and suck in the US military forces on standby.

The White House press spokesman, Mike McCurry, said the US had warned Cuban officials not to interfere with the flotilla. "In plain English, the United States of America will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour by the Cuban government," he said, a phrase seen by some as almost dangerously

vague in the event that anything unforeseen occurs.

Mr McCurry said Mr Clinton supported the idea of a memorial service at sea to the four victims from the Miami-based Brothers to the Rescue. The group flies the Straits of Florida looking for Cuban boat people but has also made at least two flights over Havana to drop democracy leaflets.

Cuba's Foreign Minister, Roberto Robaina, said Cuba would take no action provided the flotilla and planes stayed outside the island's territorial waters. That, however, raised the question of definition. Cuba said its MiGs shot the two planes down over its waters, though US radar tracking showed they were outside the 12-mile limit, 17 and 25 miles respectively. Cuba apparently acted because a third plane had entered the 12-mile limit or because all three were south of

the 24th parallel, about 40 miles north of Cuba, recognised even by the US as the island's Air Defence Identification Zone.

A dozen Coast Guard cutters will accompany the flotilla, backed by two unarmed Coast Guard C-130 planes.

Meanwhile, Canada slammed Mr Clinton for backing anti-Castro legislation that could affect countries, such as Canada, Britain and Spain, which do business with Cuba. The Canadian Trade Minister, Art Eggleton, said he would meet US officials in Washington tomorrow to argue that the so-called Helms-Burton bill violates international law and the North American Free Trade Agreement. He said Canada may take the US to the international court in The Hague. The bill would mean Cuban exiles could sue in US courts for the return of property they owned before Mr Castro's 1959 revolution.



Relatives being comforted at Lima airport, Peru, after learning that there were no survivors when a Faucett Airlines flight with 123 people on board crashed in an Andean mountain canyon on Thursday. Photograph: AP

Jet speedometer blamed for crash

PHIL DAVISON

Latin America Correspondent

A speedometer which told the pilots they were flying faster than they really were caused last month's crash of an aircraft full of German tourists off the Dominican Republic, it emerged yesterday.

Initial reports from the United States National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), released by Dominican Republic officials, suggested the velocity indicator on the Turkish-owned Birgenair Boeing 757 had been reading 335 knots (about 370 mph) as the jet reached 7,000 feet shortly after take-off from the resort of Puerto Plata on 6 February.

In fact, it was flying at a much lower speed, the engines stalled and the aircraft went into a dive, plunging into the Atlantic Ocean and killing all 189 people on board.

An article in yesterday's *Washington Post* said there were indications the Turkish flight crew had known before take-off that there were problems with its velocity instruments but decided to go ahead with the flight, returning German tourists to Berlin and Frankfurt. There was no immediate comment from the airline.

The 757, leased for the flight by Birgenair to its local affiliate, Alas Nacionales, had been idle at Puerto Plata for at least two weeks, raising concerns at the time that its maintenance may not have been up to scratch. It was pressed into service at the last minute to replace a Boeing

767 which Alas Nacionales was scheduled to use. Some officials at the time said the 767 had had problems with its hydraulics. Others said the airline had opted for the smaller 757 because the flight was considerably underbooked.

There was no immediate response from the Boeing company in Seattle, Washington, which lost its first 757 on 20 December when an American Airlines flight from Miami hit a mountain in Cali, Colombia, killing all but four of the 164 on board. Pilot error or a misunderstanding with the Cali control tower have been provisionally blamed for that crash.

General Hector Roman Torres, the Dominican Republic's head of civil aviation, told the Associated Press that the NTSB had reached its conclusion after studying the flight recorders recovered from the seabed last week by a US Navy guided robot. "An alarm went off indicating that the aeroplane was losing a lot of velocity, and 84 seconds later the aeroplane hit the water," he said.

The US banned all Dominican Republic airlines from landing in the US three years ago, saying its civil aviation authority was not up to international standards. Before the crash occurred, the Dominicans had hoped to overturn the ban. But Germany, too, said this week it wanted a "European Union black list" of countries with low air-safety standards following the Dominican crash, vowing to go it alone if necessary.

Big on safety. ABS brakes. Driver's airbag.

Saab Safeseat. Side impact protection.

Power Steering. A big engine.

Twin-cam 16 valve, 2.0 litre, 130 bhp.

Big on boot space. Capacity 46.3 cu ft.

3 year/60,000 mile warranty.

Extended service intervals.

A.B.I. Advisory Group 10 insurance rating.

SAAB 900 £14,995

The price quoted is the maximum price you'll pay and is correct at the time of going to press. It includes delivery, road tax and plates.

CALL 0800 626 556 FOR A TEST DRIVE.



SAAB

beyond the conventional

Big benefits. Compact price. No small print.



To Saab Information Centre, Freepost WC4524, London WC2E 7BR. Please send further information on the: 900 □ 9000 CD (Saloon) □ 9000 CS (Sed) □

Name _____ Address _____ Postcode _____ REF 2517

Present car make & model _____ Year of reg. _____ Age if under 18 _____ Attach your business card or phone 0800 626556 or fax 0171 240 6033.

Get the Independent on Sunday for only **50p**
See page 2 for voucher

Starting tomorrow in the Independent on Sunday



FO Dream Team
by INDEPENDENT

Play Formula 1 Dream Team

Win a drive in a Grand Prix car

Plus in the Independent on Monday

FREE F1 Racing Magazine



INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT

Spanish set for life after Gonzalez

age

loes ind?

5000

international

Court forces Dole to fight for New York

DAVID USBORNE
New York

It was meant to be the state that was locked up for Bob Dole: not so any more. Less than a week before the Republicans in New York get their say about who should be their nominee for the 1996 presidential election, the courts have decided that the party's efforts to keep it a one-man derby are unfair.

The intervention this week by a US appeals court means that New York, which will account for more than 10 per cent of the delegates at the party convention in August, is about to have its first contested Republican primary in its history. Suddenly, next Thursday's vote is vitally important.

The court declared unconstitutional party rules that restrict the ability of candidates to get on to the ballot in the state's 31 electoral districts. Forced to collect more than

THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS '96

1,000 signatures from registered Republicans in each district, candidates had little chance of qualifying without the blessing of the party apparatus.

Doing the anointing has been Republican US Senator Alfonse D'Amato and his choice has always been Mr Dole. Until now, in what to most observers seemed like a perversion of democracy, there was little question but that Mr Dole would simply be handed the state.

Now Mr Dole will have to face competition from Pat Buchanan in about 18 of the districts and, more importantly, from Steve Forbes, whose name will appear on ballots in all of them. State-wide, the New York primary has been transformed

into a critical head-to-head between Mr Forbes and Mr Dole. Notorious for its unpredictability in elections, the state appears to be tilting marginally towards Mr Dole. The latest poll, published by the *New York Post*, showed Mr Dole leading Mr Forbes by 31 per cent to 27 per cent. Mr Buchanan was trailing with 16 per cent.

Whereas until just days ago, New York could have counted on being largely ignored by the candidates, the state now is preparing for a campaign blitz.

For Mr Dole, who is just showing signs of recovering some balance in the race, this is bad news. He will be forced to spend time and money — which he has in dwindling supply — on the state when he had thought it was not going to be necessary.

It also means that the rich bag of delegates cannot be all his. New York is not a winner-takes-all state, so even if Mr

Forbes comes in second, he could take a sizeable chunk of the delegates, with Mr Buchanan perhaps also running away with a few.

The Forbes campaign, re-energised by its candidate's first place earlier this week in Arizona, is jubilant. "We are 1,000 per cent committed to New York," said Gretchen Morgenson, Mr Forbes's press secretary. "We are going to be a huge force in New York. We have been brutalised by the New York State Republican Party."

Mr Buchanan faces a tough battle. He has qualified in only a limited number of districts and his nationalist positions will not go down easily in a state where there is such a mix of ethnicities. A Buchanan campaign organiser from Staten Island was quoted earlier this week as alleging that Jews control all the money in the US and suggesting that South African blacks fared better under apartheid.



Sounding off: Mr Forbes with the media in South Carolina, a vital state for Republican hopefuls

Photograph: AP

Buchanan set for fresh defeat

RUPERT CORNWELL
Charleston, South Carolina

Senator Bob Dole is favourite to fend off Pat Buchanan's challenge and win today's pivotal Republican primary in South Carolina, whose importance in the race for the nomination extends well beyond the 37 delegates the state will send to this summer's convention in San Diego.

On the eve of voting, polls put Mr Dole clearly ahead of the former Reagan speech-writer and conservative commentator, suggesting a strong Dole organisation here and the support of the Republican hierarchy may outweigh Mr Buchanan's appeal to the Christian right and blue-collar workers fearful for their jobs.

Predictably, it was Mr Buchanan, with his denunciation of abortion and fiscal decay, who drew the loudest cheers of the four major candidates at a Christian-coalition rally on Thursday. But Mr Dole avoided disaster, as he did earlier in the day at a televised candidates' debate mainly notable for vicious exchanges between the two lesser contenders here, the publisher Steve Forbes and Lamar Alexander, an ex-governor of Tennessee.

For Mr Dole and Mr Alexander especially, the stakes here

are enormous. With his campaign close to the maximum permitted federal-spending ceiling, the Senate majority leader must secure a victory if he is to break clear in New England, New York, and the rest of the South, which hold their own primaries over the next 10 days.

Anything less than a second place here and victory in Georgia on Tuesday would surely doom Mr Alexander, who has yet to win a primary and will run out of money if potential financial backers lose faith. Yet he appears to be running no better than third, and could be out of the contest after "Super Tuesday" on 12 March.

No such worries bother Mr Forbes, who has indicated he will continue to fight through. Since he is spending his own money, he is not affected by the \$37m (£24.6m) limit that may soon hobble Mr Dole's media efforts in major states like New York, Florida and Texas which lie immediately ahead and especially California on 26 March, if the race is not settled by then.

Also this weekend Wyoming is holding caucuses to select the 12 delegates it will send to San Diego.

Again Mr Dole is favourite but Mr Forbes could make a showing in this traditionally anti-government and libertarian Western state.

IN BRIEF

China forces UN to cut Haiti mission

New York — Brandishing its veto power, China forced the United States and its allies to scale back the UN mission in Haiti and shorten its mandate. Peking held the Haiti operation hostage for several days, threatening to veto a draft resolution unless the UN Security Council acceded to its demands. A negative vote by China would kill the resolution. Diplomats said the subtext was Peking's anger at both Haiti and the US for positive overtures to Taiwan, which it considers a renegade province. *Reuters*

Croatian murderer extradited

Zagreb — A Croat convicted of a murder that helped touch off the Serb-Croat war in eastern Croatia in 1991 has been extradited to Croatia from Germany. Ante Gudelj, 48, was sentenced in 1994 *in absentia* to 20 years in prison — the maximum penalty under Croatian law — for killing Josip Režl-Kir, a police official in eastern Croatia, and two of his associates. *AP*

Moi meets opposition leaders

Nairobi — For the first time since political pluralism was restored in Kenya five years ago, President Daniel arap Moi met three opposition leaders yesterday. Chairmen Mwai Kibaki of the Democratic Party and Michael Kijana Wamawa of Ford-Kenya and Martin Shikuku, secretary-general of Ford-Asili, said Mr Moi called the meeting. *AP*

Women back gay cleric in Cyprus

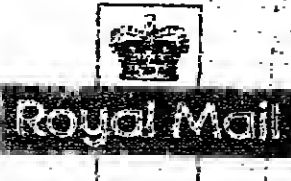
Nicosia — Women from Morphou district in north-western Cyprus picked the island's archbishopric in Nicosia yesterday, demanding the church lift sanctions on a cleric barred from being a candidate for bishop because of alleged homosexual activities. The Cyprus Orthodox Church has refused to list Archbishop Panteleimon Meraklis as a candidate in the elections. *Reuters*

EVERY READER

There are many occasions when you'll need a stamp, and we have a stamp book for all of them. Available at over 80,000 post offices and shops nationwide, stamp books are the convenient way to buy stamps. Plus, they save you time because you won't have to make a special

journey when you need them. The cover protects your stamps from being damaged and reduces your chance of losing them.

With so many different stamp books to choose from, you're spoilt for choice.



UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS

13.8% APR

0800 30 3000

13.8% APR is available on loans from £1,000 to £10,000. 16.9% APR is available on loans from £10,000 to £20,000. Loans for business or investment purposes are excluded. *Based on credit at 26/03/96. A written quotation of our credit terms is available on request. All loans are subject to status. You must be aged 24 years or over and in receipt of a regular income. This offer is not available to the staff of Halifax. For your security and to ensure our service to you, we may need to make a number of calls to your home. *Halifax Direct Bank, a division of HFC Bank plc, an authorized institution under the Banking Act 1987. Registered Office: North Bank, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF4 4TD. Registered in England No. 1117795.

The American airman, his Russian wife, her lover the British diplomat, their plan to make millions and the story scandalising Brussels



St Petersburg: home of the mysterious Ilya Baskin
Photograph: Frank Spooner

Sitting in Rick's Café, his favourite Brussels haunt, Marshall Michel adjusts his tie-pin and confesses that he would have his Russian wife, Elena, back "in a second" despite it all. He isn't surprised that Michael Emerson, the European Union's former ambassador to Moscow, should have fallen for her, or that he had been tempted by the lure of making "big bucks" in Russia.

"She's a real special," Michel says, in his Louisiana drawl. "But I've been bombed out by the whole damn business." A US fighter pilot during the Vietnam war, he has been through tough times before. But finding those documents has been "something else". The computer files that Michel is referring to are at the heart of a story that has scandalised normally sedate Brussels, and cast a shadow over the cleaner than clean image of normally staid European Union officials. "I mean," he adds, with an unsettling stare, "if an American diplomat had done this it would have been 'good night'."

Meanwhile, in the Minsk Tavern, on Brussels's Chaussée de Charleroi, Michael Emerson, the European Union's former ambassador to Moscow, and Elena Prokhorova, his 40-year-old Russian lover and Michel's wife, are also taking stock. "I feel I've been watching a film - a nightmare. It hasn't really been about me," says Elena. Mr Emerson is not talking. He is said to be in "bad shape". His deserted historic wife, Barbara (they met as undergraduates at Oxford and married in 1966), spoke chipperly yesterday of "poor

Michael" and "le démon de midi" (mid-life crisis), but also exclaimed: "I refuse to be Brussels's answer to Princess Di."

For two weeks, Brussels has been gripped by this tale of the American airman, his wife and her British diplomat lover. The story has centred on allegations that Mr Emerson, having run off with Ms Prokhorova, missed his position as ambassador to Moscow and his inside knowledge of EU aid programmes to set up a business empire in Russia, with Ms Prokhorova's help. Under a draft company plan the two were discussing, Mr Emerson, as president of the proposed company, would have earned \$30,000 a month, with a nine-off lump sum of \$1.6 million. The revelations have shocked, embarrassed and titillated. The story has spun from the Russian city of St Petersburg in Kirghizia, the far-flung outpost of the former Soviet empire and then on to Jersey, London and back to Brussels. It has not just attracted the attention of Brussels's diplomatic chattering classes. The European Commission has launched an investigation into the affair as have the Belgian Police. But the manner in which the story unfolded - and the unlikely cast of characters it has involved - has been almost as extraordinary as the allegations themselves.

The story began to spill out early in February, when Marshall Michel, aged 53, who describes himself as a "straight-talking kind of guy",

returned to his Brussels home distraught in the knowledge that his new Russian wife - the tall, slender, dark and highly intelligent Elena Prokhorova - had left him for another man, Michael Emerson.

Mr Michel first met Ms Prokhorova in 1991 while he was working as a US air-force planner at Nato in Brussels. She then went to work as a translator with the European Commission in Moscow, but the couple kept in touch, and married in August last year, when Ms Prokhorova returned to Brussels to live with Mr Michel. She was used to moving in high diplomatic circles. She had previously been married to the Russian ambassador to the Council of Europe. Her impressive curriculum vitae (take one entry: 1977-1979 - translator, India - USSR State Committee for External Economic Relations) has caused much comment among old Soviet hands, who know how translators were once used by the KGB.

Mr Michel learned that his wife was leaving him by fax. "She faxed me a Dear John letter when I was away in Washington. Can you believe it?" he asks, evidently still distressed. In the fax she disclosed she had been having an affair with Mr Emerson while they were both working in Moscow. Mr Emerson had returned to Brussels in January after a four-year stint. Once he was reunited with his lover, he left his wife of almost 30 years, with whom he had three children. Mr Michel realised the couple had been

By Sarah Helm

together in his house and he had reason to believe they had used his computer. A computer whiz, he found several files that they thought they had "trashed" - but hadn't.

Among these files were a series of letters, some in Russian, written to contacts in Moscow, discussing plans to set up a "consultancy company". The couple's main contact was a St Petersburg businessman called Ilya Baskin. Elena says she introduced Mr Emerson to Mr Baskin. The letters discussed setting up business deals in Central Asia and Kirghizia, and referred to the fact that European Union funding for Russia, known as the TACIS programme, was about to be extended to these areas, which meant it was a "good time" to do business. It is not clear what consultancy services the business would have been offering other than explaining how Western and Russian companies might benefit from EU aid.

Another letter, written by Mr Emerson, was addressed to Stuart Naughton, a tax expert at Coopers and Lybrand, in Moscow. This letter advised Mr Naughton to expect contact with Mr Baskin and told him to arrange for money to reach a series of offshore bank accounts. The most devastating discovery, made by Michel, was a further document describing the plan for the proposed company, as well as the "working conditions" and monthly remuneration of the president. In

addition to a salary and lump sum under this proposal, Mr Emerson would have had a flat or house in Moscow with reliable security, as well as a car, a secretary and several other fringe benefits.

Mr Michel said this week: "I realised when I read that document that this was no love story. I was up against \$1.6 million as well." Neither Mr Emerson or Ms Prokhorova dispute the authenticity of the documents, but both deny any wrongdoing. They simply say they had "plans" to set up the company, insisting no money had changed hands. Armed with the evidence he had accumulated, the American acted quickly, immediately alerting the European Commission fraud watchdogs and the Belgian Police.

The European Commission, which likes to paint its own staff as whiter than white, appeared somewhat dumfounded by Mr Michel's bombshell, but agreed to launch an internal inquiry. They could hardly ignore the evidence which the American had given to them by handing over his computer. "They had 300 megabytes to look through," he says. "Imagine. I gave them everything on that machine - the first draft of my first novel. Can you imagine how embarrassing that was?"

If true, the Commission knew that the allegations against Mr Emerson clearly pointed to a serious case of conflict of interest - or worse. But this US-style whistle-blowing had sent the Brussels Eurocrats scrambling for cover. As the allegations began to emerge,

officials at first huffed and puffed. "It can't be true," they shrugged. "Not Emerson! He doesn't have it in him." Educated at Hurst Pierpoint public school in Sussex, and Balliol College, Oxford, Mr Emerson's reputation appeared to be clean. "Bright but humourless," was how some colleagues described him. She said she was writing about being described as a "Russian temptress" and rejected claims that she had been connected with the KGB or Russian Mafia. She would not comment on whether she and Mr Emerson intended to pursue plans to set up a business in Moscow. "We would love to get married as soon as possible," she said. "The idea of the company only had a 50-50 chance of coming off. Perhaps we will go to New Zealand and grow cabbages."

Yesterday, the heroine of the story, Barbara Emerson, visited the Commission to see if she might qualify for a slice of Mr Emerson's pension. The couple have three children. "I am of a practical disposition," she said bravely. "Poor Michael. I think he will come back to me in the end. He only used to eat packet soup when I wasn't there."

Mr Michel admits that he doesn't really expect Elena to come back to him but he is sure that "she will cheat on Emerson soon". He says he is staying on in Brussels and is planning his next book - and rumour has it, it could be a novel about an American, his wife and her diplomat lover, based in Moscow and Brussels.

be quite over. The Commission inquiry is still going on and officials are believed to be still hunting down the mysterious Mr Baskin, somewhere in St Petersburg.

Ms Prokhorova said yesterday that she and Michael Emerson, who are living together in a rented Brussels flat, were working on new plans. She said she was writing about being described as a "Russian temptress" and rejected claims that she had been connected with the KGB or Russian Mafia. She would not comment on whether she and Mr Emerson intended to pursue plans to set up a business in Moscow. "We would love to get married as soon as possible," she said. "The idea of the company only had a 50-50 chance of coming off. Perhaps we will go to New Zealand and grow cabbages."

Yesterday, the heroine of the story, Barbara Emerson, visited the Commission to see if she might qualify for a slice of Mr Emerson's pension. The couple have three children. "I am of a practical disposition," she said bravely. "Poor Michael. I think he will come back to me in the end. He only used to eat packet soup when I wasn't there."

Jo Brand's week

All the old foyes are up in arms about the fact that God is going to be played by a woman in this year's mystery plays in York. A heated discussion ensued on *Question Time* this week, and an audience vote showed that only 8 per cent thought God was a woman. I'm surprised it was as many as that, to be honest. We have all had it drummed into us since the year dot that God is a bloke with a long beard and long white hair. We also have the added problem that lots of men think they're God, whereas most women don't. Given the glut of films recently featuring men in drag, I can't see a problem with a woman playing what is seen as a traditionally male role. At least Christianity should be liberal enough to cope with this idea without going into a homicidal rage.



Mr P: a large, attractive wallet

So Luciano Pavarotti has joined the club of men who dump their wives for their secretaries. I'm sure his attractiveness is down to wallet size, as opposed to anything else. Pavarotti may have gone off his wife sexually some time ago, because these things happen, but I would imagine that he is not the easiest man to negotiate in the sack, either. This doesn't matter if you have a close and enduring friendship, which is what keeps lots of couples together into the separate-beds years. Betrayal of that friendship is far worse than the odd dabble on the side. If I was Mrs Pavarotti, I'd take the bastard for all I could get.

As soon as a film comes out in America, real-life examples pop up all over the place to emulate the behaviour of the characters, thereby becoming the "real-life Bonnie and Clyde", etc. etc. So we have a "real-life Thelma and Louise", so called, because they led the FBI on a five-month cross-country hunt in the US last year. They didn't drive over a cliff, though, so the end was not so exciting. Real life isn't, sometimes, is it?

Two men driving across the country trying to escape from the police, wouldn't even merit a mention in most papers, which I suppose demonstrates how unusual it is for women to commit these sorts of crimes.

It's a shame that the two women in the Peugeot advert haven't been apprehended yet and tried in the very irritating ads court. They didn't drive over a cliff either, more's the pity.

Many rich upper-class women, the Princess of Wales included, seem hell-bent on doing good works for charity groups. Why? Is it down to conscience, guilt, frustration or a wish for self-fulfilment? I would imagine much of it may be down to boredom. A visit to the homeless or a chat with the royals? No contest in my book.

I got into a taxi this week and said some words that I will probably never say again: "The Ritz, please." This was because I'd put myself and a free tea at the Ritz up for auction on behalf of an arts foundation set up in the name of



Stuart Sutcliffe, one of the original Beatles, who died tragically young from a stroke. I didn't attend the auction as I couldn't bear the potential humiliation of only attracting a sum under a tanner, from one of my relatives. However, two blokes bid a flattering and sizeable sum. As I went to meet them, all I knew was that they were in "advertising", and I confess my prejudices had made me apprehensive. Yes, I'm afraid I imagined two braying, suited whizzkids with whom I would have nothing in common. I apologise. I was completely wrong. They were intelligent, interesting men with a great sense of humour and I hope they enjoyed it. I did, especially the scones.

I wish the UK had its own version of *Neighbours*, because it would just be a catalogue of disputes between people who can't manage to live together in an adult way. Take the case that unfolded this week at Newcastle upon Tyne County Court, which awarded £15,000 damages and £20,000 legal costs against Mr Paul Telford. A row with his neighbours, Frank and Mary Bray, about barking dogs escalated when Mr Telford acquired a Vietnamese pot-bellied pig with grays great distress because of the odours wafting over the fence.

These rather childish arguments seem to be becoming more common, and are a bad example for everyone else from so-called grown-ups. The

Brays should look on the bright side. At least pot-bellied pigs can't bark. And don't bother to write in and call me one. I'm sure the Sun's Garry Bushell will do it for you.

I'm glad that 29 February only comes round every four years, or we'd have a glut of weather women and local news presenters proposing to their men live on air. It is irritating, too, because we never got to see the men weeping, or running screaming from the studio with a look of terror on their faces.

I didn't propose to anyone, just in case they said yes. Having a husband would ruin my reputation as the man-hating feminist ballbreaker that I am.



Why did they let him go?

Alan Clark, the former minister, who drove his Range Rover (what else would he drive?) through a police cordon while trying to get to a lunch, remarked that everyone in public life ought to be arrested at least once, as an educational exercise. I agree, but I think that some of them, including Alan, shouldn't be let out again. It would save locking up your daughters.

Renewing your Home Insurance in March or April?

UP TO
32% OFF
Already competitive
Buildings premiums

+

UP TO
35% OFF
Home contents
premiums

We've slashed up to 32% off our buildings insurance premiums to provide even better value. What's more, if you take out contents insurance with Prudential at the same time, you will receive a 15% discount, plus a further 20% off if you're over 50.

Find out how much you could save. Call now for a free quote. PLUS a FREE home security video.

YOURS FREE

Talk to Prudence



Freephone 0800 000 000.

Lines are open 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and from 10am to 2pm weekends. For your protection, calls on this number will be recorded. Please quote reference GAC 22

Why our innermost thoughts need protection

This week we were subjected to another outburst of intimacy from the Princess of Wales. Apparently she is frustrated by the Royal Family's reaction to her demands in her divorce negotiations, and she thinks they are playing ping-pong with her - whatever that means. We've heard a lot about Diana's innermost thoughts in the past few years: from bulimia to the enemy camp Buckingham Palace, from her desire to be Queen of Hearts to her distress at the stream of battered this and battered that, which made up royal life. The collapse of the British monarchy under the weight of its many failed relationships is an important cultural and constitutional story of our times.

It also happens to be jolly good fun, for newspapers and their readers. As far as the royal marriage is concerned we need few qualms about prying hacks invading people's privacy and telling their story to the world. The leading protagonists have been tripping over each other to spill their beans to a waiting world.

Why shouldn't we want to know and expect to be told as much as we can stomach about the inner details of the Wales's miserable marriage? After all, we are at the end of a week that has been dominated by the need to make British society more open. This newspaper, more than any other, has campaigned for greater openness in every walk of life. We welcomed Sir Richard Scott's arms-to-Iraq report two weeks ago, with its damning evidence of insidious secrecy in the corridors of power. We called for greater transparency, greater accountability and for a Freedom of Information Act. What's sauce for the Gov-

ernment should presumably be sauce for the Crown too. As long as the machinations of the Royal Family have constitutional implications they are fair game for public scrutiny.

However, as we lap it up, there is something that vaguely worries us about the Royals' enthusiasm for letting it all hang out. Their case is just the most extreme of the rise of public confessionism, using the television screen as the latter day equivalent of the church as the medium for atoning. The case for greater openness in a system of government as closed as the one we have is overwhelming. A society is being driven to be more open by a set of linked forces. Democracy demands openness. Technologies, such as the spread of the personal computer and the Internet, are allowing more information to be made available more rapidly to more people. A society like ours, which believes in the market and meritocracy, has to be open about the rules of competition and the standards against which people are being judged.

And yet in this urge to be open are there no costs? Is openness an unalloyed good or is possible that this Nineties fashion for confessionism and disclosure could, taken to the extreme, undermine the very notion of what should be kept private?

Take confessionism first. Charles and Di compete for media space with the famous, the fortunate and the downright ordinary to reveal deep secrets to a national audience. Soap opera stars describe how they have overcome drug addictions. Families admit to their squabbles and their deepest anxieties on *Oprah* and her UK equivalent.



lents. Cilla Black drags millions of viewers away from the *National Lottery Show* every Saturday night to watch strangers meet, date and describe what they like and dislike about one another on *Blind Date*.

If tabloid television doesn't tickle your fancy there are the more genteel versions on Radio 4. Listeners can enjoy highly personal reflections on *Desert Island Discs* or *In The Psychiatrist's Chair*. Every weekend acres of newspaper are taken up with first person columns in which the authors turn their experiences into marketable commodities of the media age.

And then there are the books. Nick Hornby confessing his addiction to football, Giles Smith detailing his obsession with Sting, Blake Morrison picking over his life with his father and this week Madame Mitterrand's revelations about loving a man who seduced a string of young women forms a tribute to her past life with the late French President and includes stories she never shared while her husband was alive.

All this effusive openness has huge advantages. Many forms of therapy - overcoming drug and alcohol addictions, dealing with experiences of rape or child abuse, handling a violent past, or even marriage counselling - involve describing personal experiences and emotions to others. People often find it cathartic and constructive. Watching others admit to illness or emotional problems on television can be extremely reassuring for people - especially men - who would otherwise agonise about the same issues in isolation.

But all this revealing can go too far. Milan Kundera, writing in the *New York Review of Books* last

year and recalling his experience of the way totalitarianism has destroyed private life in eastern Europe, argued that maintaining a private world is essential to sustaining a sense of the individual. "Private and public are two essentially different worlds and respect for that difference is the indispensable condition for a man to live free." The thoughts and reactions we admit to in our heads are very different from the attributions in a diary for publication. If our private thoughts become crowded out by the need to marshal and reveal an opinion for public view, then we may lose any sense of a private self.

Kundera fears that the security of private life is once again being threatened in the liberal democracies of the 1990s. This time it is the appetite for displaying the private world for the entertainment of the public.

Certainly relationships suffer from too much public show. Building close bonds with other people depends on being able to single them out for a distinctive form of communication. Lovers become intimate only because they admit each other to a private and privileged world. It is hardly surprising that in the past 12 months a string of so-called celebrity marriages have broken down: the requirements of intimacy for a romantic relationship incompatible if it would seem with the demands of a public role.

Openness is a great good. We do not have enough of it in our political and corporate life, where too often secrecy is the *modus operandi*. Yet openness in the name of the public only makes sense if there is also a private world to be protected and nurtured. We neglect that at our peril.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Medical negligence: to apologise, to explain, to litigate

From Dr Michael Saunders

Sir: I read with interest Polly Toynbee's article "Legal leeches are bleeding the NHS" (28 February). The Medical Defence Union is contributing to Lord Woolf's review of civil justice and supports any initiative to make the litigation process fairer, faster and cheaper in the interests of our members and their patients.

I would, however, like to take issue with the common misunderstanding, repeated in the article, that "no prudent manager or medical insurer would dream of letting a doctor apologise". This is certainly not our view, and we speak as the UK's leading provider of indemnity to doctors.

Since the mid-Fifties, we have repeatedly advised our members to "say sorry" if something has gone wrong with a patient's treatment. A sincere and honest apology should be made, either by the doctor concerned or, if appropriate, by a senior col-

league. Doctors should not worry about inadvertently making an admission of legal liability, as this is something completely different. The patient is always entitled to a prompt, appropriate and truthful account of what has occurred. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL SAUNDERS, Chief Executive, Medical Defence Union, London, W1

From Professor Roy Sanders

Sir: Polly Toynbee has hit the nail on the head. Screw the NHS by making litigation for medical negligence cheaper and quicker, and justice more accessible, and money will be diverted from medicine to the law; from patients in need of treatment to those who have been negligently treated.

Some "Trusts" hammer the doctor by settling actions because it is cheaper than defending them. Where does that leave the doctor faced with

a well-treated but discontented and litigious patient?

Chip away at the trust a patient has in the doctor, wedge the lawyers between the human and apologetic doctor and the patient, and it is plain to see that with increased access to litigation, for the NHS, there's a Woolf at the door.

Yours faithfully, ROY SANDERS, Clinical Director, Centre for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood

From Mr Michael Napier

Sir: The tranquilliser claims Polly Toynbee refers to were against pharmaceutical companies for failing to warn doctors and patients about the risk of injury to health, caused by addiction and dependency on drugs, at vast expense to the NHS. Soon after the claims were made, a government warning led to a dramatic

reduction in tranquilliser prescriptions at a huge saving to the NHS. And although the liability of the drug manufacturer was never tested at trial, the case was certainly not the no-hoper she suggests.

In her sweeping attack on the legal profession's motives when acting for accident victims, Polly Toynbee also overlooks the fact that nobody can sue for medical negligence (with or without legal aid) unless their claim is supported by the independent evidence of another doctor.

Medical negligence litigation is usually hard fought and not every case succeeds. But each year, numerous victims of medical accidents rightly recover compensation that in total far exceeds the annual amount paid out by legal aid on cases that fail. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL NAPIER, President, Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, Nottingham

Civil Service recruitment

From Dame Gillian Brown

Sir: The Government's plan to privatise the Civil Service Recruitment and Advisory Service has had scant publicity, but as a result of questions in the House of Lords it will be debated there on 8 March. I hope the Government will be persuaded to drop the scheme.

The advantages of privatisation for undertakings needing major investment and competition scarcely apply. East Home stated on 25 January that it would free the RAS to compete for business in a wider market. Is that realistic given the multitude of existing agencies?

A stated purpose is to provide a better service with better value for the taxpayer. Is that well thought out? Assurances that civil servants will

retain control over tests for and appointments to "the fast stream" and that audits could lead to a sub-standard RAS losing the contract may allay some anxieties, but the likely outcome seems to be a complicated system involving extra work rather than savings.

In my experience, based on many years in the Diplomatic Service and later as an assessor for the Civil Service Selection Board, our recruitment system has a justifiably high reputation at home and abroad for its integrity and effective assessment methods. Indeed, the Government has advanced no specific criticism of the RAS, so why dismantle it? Yours sincerely, GILLIAN BROWN, London, W3

A millennial Palace of art

From Mr Roger Guedalla

Sir: During a recent week in Republican France, I was reminded that the Louvre had once been a Royal Palace. Could not this set an excellent example to us in Britain, as we search for a great project for the millennium and, at the same time, seek some significant change in the institution of the monarchy?

My suggestion is that Buckingham Palace, already reputed to be unpopular with members of the Royal Family, be turned into one of the world's greatest art galleries by displaying the contents of the Royal Collection. The Queen

herself would move into St James's Palace which was, I believe, the London home of the Royal Family before Buckingham Palace was built.

Not only would this be seen as a wonderful gesture on the part of the Royal Family, leading among other things to a significant reduction in expense, it would also abolish one of the great scandals of our time. What may well be the greatest of all art collections is currently hidden from view with the slight exception of the small annual display in the Buckingham Palace Gallery. It would also provide a permanent and wonderful symbol for the millennium. Yours sincerely, ROGER GUEDALLA, Ilford, Essex

In a lather over soap opera pay

From Professor Phil Redmond

Sir: Your article "Brookside directors in a lather over 'miserly' pay" (28 February) is a perfect example of the idiosyncratic artistic interpretation of a dramatic piece. Both your article and its source material, the letter from Fiers Haggard of the Directors Guild to myself, contain cuts to the original work.

Rather than Mr Haggard having had "no reply" to his letter, he was contacted on the day his fax arrived (Friday, 23 February) and was informed that I was away but I would see it on my return. This I did the following Tuesday, with an initial reply reaching him the same date as your publication.

Most of the central characters [directors on *Brookside*] are staff repertory players; they therefore receive the industry staff rates. When staff are temporarily seconded to other projects, their underpayers are on short - albeit expensive - freelance contracts.

One thing I have agreed in correspondence with Mr Haggard is that the "derisory £75" increase could be seen as insulting. It has been withdrawn. Yours sincerely, PHIL REDMOND, Chairman, Mersey Television Company, Liverpool

Liberal reforms

From Mr Larry McLean

Sir: I agree completely with Adam Blackie (28 February) on the need for three major reforms - proportional representation, a Bill of Rights, and a Freedom of Information Act. He says "none of the major parties seem keen to introduce such reforms". For "none" substitute "neither". The Liberal Democrats advocate all the reforms he supports. Yours sincerely, LARRY MCLEAN, Wolverhampton

Tea's maid

From Mrs Diana Wood

Sir: In the early 1950s, we had a French au pair girl, who was amazed to see us measuring loose tea leaves into our teapot. Throughout her childhood, she had hand sewn and filled muslin tea bags for family use. Her dismay on seeing that it had all been unnecessary was considerable. Yours sincerely, DIANA WOOD, Leigh, Kent

Mutty humour

From Mr A W Low

Sir: Your article on the emotional lives of animals reminds me of an occasion when I was with our dog, a Labrador-collie cross. Once, when some boys were larking about, the dog ran across barking and scattering the children, but not harming them. He then stood still and I was sure he laughed.

Yours sincerely, A W LOW, Brechin, Tayside

DAVID AARONOVITCH

The fax factor

Oh how treacherous is technology. It is barely six months since the London *Evening Standard* confessed a faxed article by the former Labour golden boy Bryan Gould with a piece of political juvenility penned by the teenage son of the Home Secretary, Michael Howard. But this week a letter of sympathy from Mr Howard's wife, Sandra, to the Tory rebel Peter Thurnham turned up on the fax machine of the *Bolton Metro News*.

The lives of journalists, scrubbing around for good stories of embarrassments to the rich and powerful, would be made immeasurably easier if the following "communications" also ended up in the wrong hands:

Dear Gardner Merchant,

Some additional requirements for our annual garden party. We need another 45 bottles of the Veuve, an extra 50 caviar vol-au-vents (black, not red), and a large selection of cigars (note: Cuban only). I trust that in addition to the comestibles you have remembered the red flags.

Sincerely, Anne Scargill

Dear Jason,

Life is horrible here at St Olive's. The boys are all stuck up, and imagine that their better than everyone else. They spend all their time boasting about limos, yachts and helicopters, and going to the country at weekends. As for their parents, they are the most dreddful social climbers, all complaining about crime and the decline of community.

What's more I don't think the education here is up to much either. Why on earth didn't Mum let me go with you to Gros Street comprehensive? Your friend, Joe (Harman)

Dear Richard Shepherd,

Michael has no idea that I'm writing, but I felt I just had to tell you how very much I've enjoyed your new book, that you wrote with Mr Little. It was Michael's copy I picked up and he'd left lots of notes in the margins, saying things like "I completely agree" - the party should adopt this one" and so on. Why have we never met at any party gathering? Perhaps soon.

Faithfully, Sandra Howard



Dear Auntie Doreen,

I'm that fed up. Yesterday at another one of those rallies we keep having to go to, that Cherie Blair popped up to me, dressed like a Winkie tart, and starts telling me in her faded tartan what a hard time of she's having getting child care with her 200 grand a year job getting poll-tax defectors sent to jail. And she says cool as a cucumber, I do love your hair, Pauline, so very Saties. Still, as John says, one more election defeat and she'll be going the way of Glynis Kinnock.

Your niece, Pauline

Dear Milkman,

This note is to say that we're all going away this weekend. I've left the back-door open, so that you can put the organic milk and bio-yoghurts directly into the refrigerator, if you wouldn't mind. Your money is in the garage, underneath a half-empty petrol can, on the shelf next to the car.

Back Tuesday, Jane Ashdown

Dear Mr Manning,

I wonder if I could trouble you by asking for your autograph. It's my husband's birthday, and he is a great admirer of yours, constantly retelling your jokes at dinners and party conferences.

In anticipation, Carolyn Portillo

Dear Kipsdirties,

Draft menu for 12th birthday party. Nothing with beef in it (stuffed full of brain-rot). No eggs (salmonella). No dairy produce (destroys sperms. Problems in later life for boy guests). No vegetables (DDT). Nothing from the Newbury area (like racas, hate cars).

Got it? Ms Cordelia Gummer

Dear Peter Mandelson,

Michael has no idea I'm writing, but I felt I just had to tell you how very much I've enjoyed your new book, that you wrote with Mr Little. It was Michael's copy I picked up and he'd left lots of notes in the margins, saying things like "I completely agree" - the party should adopt this one" and so on. Why have we never met at any party gathering? Perhaps soon.

Faithfully, Sandra Howard

QUOTE UNQUOTE

When I go home nowadays, I get the sort of kindness normally reserved for dead people - Neil Kinnock, *European Commissioner and former Labour leader*

Never attack an opponent when he is killing himself - Gerald Kaufman, *Labour MP*

My mother wanted me to be a nice boy. I didn't let her down. I don't smoke, drink or mess around with women - Julian Clary, *comedian*

Middle age is when, wherever you go on holiday, you pack a sweater - Denis Norden

Twenty years down the line everyone will have forgotten about Diana. She will have joined the list of clapped-out celebrities living in California - David Stanley, *historian*

The Ottoman Sultans would have had her strangled in a bag and thrown into the Sea of Marmara - Norman Stone, *historian*

Everyone in public life ought to be arrested at least once. Once on education - Alan Clark, former minister, apprehended after allegedly driving through a police cordon in central London

Oh, crumbies, but it's wonderful words - Sir Cliff Richard, who told that the scene from his musical *Flashlight* where he kneels singing next to Catfish's decomposing body was gruesome



Run for your life: the Waterloo Cup at Great Altcar

Photograph: John Vooes

Coursing is no 'sport' for the hares

From Mrs Joan Haggard

Sir: Janet George's article "Hunting is good news for hares" (Another View, 28 February) is one of the most chillingly insensitive accounts of any blood-sport I have ever read. She explains the rules and moves of the Waterloo Cup as if describing a contest between a group of equally willing participants.

The only time she mentions suffering is to say that if the hare gets caught there are four "dispatchers" at vantage points to ensure there is no suffering. What degree of suffering constitutes "none"?

Anyway, one might point out that the whole event depends on the hare experiencing enough terror to make it try to escape a violent death. Does not that, in itself, qualify as suffering? Yours sincerely, JOAN HAGGARD, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

From Mr John Bryant

Sir: Janet George of the British Field Sports Society defended the three-day Waterloo Cup hare coursing event on Merseyside on the same day the *Liverpool Echo* published the result of a poll showing that 96

per cent of local people favoured a ban on this event.

A national poll by Gallup in 1990 revealed that 85 per cent of the public oppose hare coursing. In the mid-Seventies, the House of Commons passed a Bill to outlaw hare coursing by a majority of more than 100 - only for it to be blocked in the unelected House of Lords.

For large coursing events, hares have to be netted in other areas and transported to the coursing estates, which do not hold sufficient numbers of "active" hares to ensure completion of the heats. For instance, on the first day of this year's Waterloo Cup, 13 hares

were killed - no doubt some of them pregnant or nursing young.

As one cannot transport hares to an estate and then claim they are "pests", the only purpose of hare coursing is "sport".

The Waterloo Cup takes place at the end of February, thus leaving any orphaned leverets to die from starvation or predation. In the interests of animal welfare, wildlife conservation and not least democracy, hare coursing should be outlawed. Yours sincerely, JOHN BRYANT, League Against Cruel Sports, London, SE1

Rags to riches

From Mr David Gunn

Sir: As a student at a Cambridge college experiencing the week, I should like to bring your attention to the appalling difficulty of RAG Challenge.

To enter this supposedly fun event, teams must pay money, which goes to charity, and then try to collect more points than anybody else by completing various challenges. I should especially like to draw your attention to the amount of points received for getting a letter published in a national newspaper before Sunday 3 March - 2000!

Yours sincerely, DAVID GUNN, Churchill College, Cambridge

Green Labour

From Mr Chris Hewett

Sir: Tony Blair's speech on the environment was far more than a sequence of well-intended platitudes. "A conventional shade of green" (28 February). Traditionally, the Left has been wary of green issues for fear of undermining economic goals. In *Trust for Tomorrow*, the party's policy document on the environment, moved Labour beyond those fears. Tony Blair has now added his approval.

In terms of specific policies, Mr Blair stressed the clear green water between Labour and the Conservatives. The target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent by 2010 is an ambitious one. Labour's programme of energy efficiency improvements to houses will save far more CO2 than VAT on fuel, will reduce rather than exacerbate fuel poverty and, according to independent economists, will create 50,000 jobs. The commitment to shifting investment from

road to rail is in stark contrast to the Tory record on transport.

The most important announcement, however, is of a parliamentary "Green Audit" committee. This will help to prevent green issues being seen as an optional add-on and will take environmental concerns to the heart of all government policy.

Yours, CHRIS HEWETT, Socialist Environment and Resources Association, London, N4

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

(Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) and include a daytime telephone number.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

EDITOR: Charles Wilson. ASSISTANT EDITOR: Charles Leadbeater. MANAGING EDITOR: Colin Hughes. SECTION EDITORS: Sarah Kelsall. SATURDAY EDITOR: David Robson. EXECUTIVE NEWS EDITOR: Michael Williams. NIGHT EDITOR: RICHARD HOLLAND. NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING PLC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Liam Kelly (Chairman), Lord Burns, Juan Luis Cebrian, Ben Bradlee, Javier Diez de la Penas, Brendan Hopkins, David Montgomery, Andreas Whitman. ADVERTISING DIRECTOR: Jeremy Reed

The Independent



THIS WEEKEND WHY NOT

WATCH
The Birdies

Woody Allen described pigeons as "rats with wings", but there's more to ornithology than cheap abuse. If your list of bird breeds runs out after robins and sparrows, try visiting the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. Each Sunday there are guided walks around the 60-acre site, home to 63 species of birds.

■ Mill Race, Arundel, W Sussex (01903 883355) 9.30am-4.30pm: talks: 1.30pm

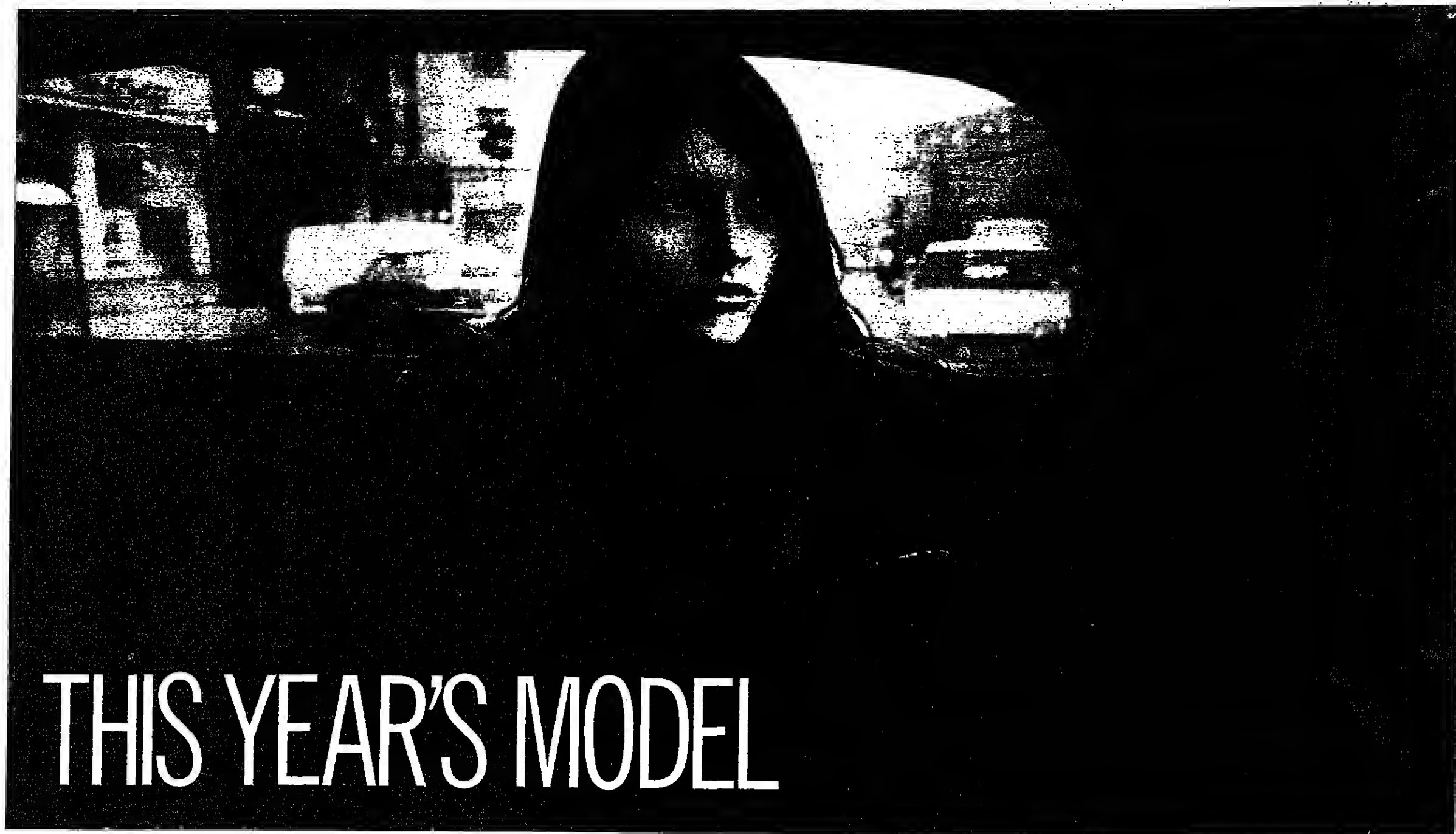
TV & RADIO
TODAY _____
SUNDAY _____



In the know on where to go

[illegible]

picture story



THIS YEAR'S MODEL



Last year, Joanne Watkins, an unknown 16-year-old Cardiff schoolgirl, walked into the offices of Select, one of London's top modelling agencies. She was instantly thrust into the fashion limelight and is now tipped for the top of the modelling world. Edward Sykes kept his camera on her during London Fashion Week



Top picture: London Fashion Week coincides with Joanne's half-term – but it's no holiday. Sight-seeing is confined to peering out of a taxi, and her time is spent rushing between her five main catwalk shows, castings, photo shoots and meetings at Select. In the evening, (above) she unwinds to some A-level homework: if the modelling dream goes sour, her contingency plan is a degree in psychology

Right: large amounts of hairspray from a previous show are brushed out backstage at the Copperwheat Blundell show (last year's British New Generation Designer of the Year). Models are used to painful grooming, but during London Fashion Week, they can expect to put on violently different styles and catwalk attitudes

Below: being assisted by a dresser into Copperwheat Blundell's street-style clothes. The collections modelled are for autumn and winter. Backstage is one of the few opportunities to chat with fellow models: most are too tired to socialise afterwards



Above: In between catwalk castings, Joanne visits a fashion photographer who studies her book with a view to a possible forthcoming shoot. She can already expect to command up to \$10,000 a day

Below: on the catwalk at the bouncy and distinctively feminine Antonio Berardi show. After appearing in the current Gucci advertising campaign for the Spring collection, Joanne Watkins has become one of the faces to watch. As soon as the 32-show week comes to an end, she will jet off to Milan





Dempster in excelsis

The week the world learnt of the royal divorce found Nigel Dempster, guru of gossip, in his element.

By John Walsh. Photograph by Herbie Knott

On the third floor of the *Daily Mail* headquarters in west London, Nigel Dempster is doing what he does best. Gazing purposefully through his window, which overlooks the electric ribbon of Kensington Church Street, he is explaining to a far-off bit of the Empire what the Royal Family is up to.

"...And he does not feel the British public would put up with him if he married Camilla. Diana? Well, she is not a greedy person. Her brother, Lord Spencer, who now lives in South Africa, told me Buckingham Palace is surprised by the modesty of her demands." As he updates the monarchists of New Zealand on the level of Diana's cupidry, Dempster's voice is inflected with absolute authority, with no quaver of doubt or ambiguity. Only a simpleton, you feel, could imagine there could be any other view of Chuck and Di. Much of what he says is, in fact, supposition (unless, of course, he is telepathically privy to the Prince of Wales's inner thoughts), but what Dempster supposes to be the case counts as the truth in a few million living-rooms.

"Come in! Come in!" he cries, hand over mouthpiece. "Some champagne? I think there's some white wine in the fridge." His empire is surprisingly small, considering that he has been the most famous gossip columnist in the world for at least 20 years. One expects a *chaîne-longue*, a Hugh Hefner penthouse, a scenic elevator... There are just five desks, a rubber plant, photographs from jolly evenings with Peter Stringfellow, Peter McKay and various swarthy beauties. Just behind Dempster's head, the pictures are nearly all of his beloved racehorses, Aardwolf and Pretoria Dancer.

My timing is perfect, for the news has just broken: the Princess of Wales has finally agreed to a divorce and hinted at the terms that will be acceptable to her; and Dempster is in excelsis. He positively bristles with knowledge. You can practically hear a wash of royal tittle-tattle, a quarter-century of stories, scandals, intrigues, rumours, anticipations and reflections flooding through his cerebral cortex. He shoots the cuffs of his pyjama-stripey shirt (Hilitch & Key at a guess), perches like a precise, fastidious Samuel Whiskers on a desk for his portrait, answers the (now endlessly shrilling) phone with easy aplomb. He is as suave as Brylcreem, with just the faintest hint of poison.

After New Zealand, Canada has been ringing for his insights. The American newspapers also seem gripped by the undeviating news from Kensington Palace. To all of them, he proffers the same firm, just-the-facts routine, giving details of his account in Jersey. I just throw it all away. Of course, he will end up very rich and I won't. "Well, I don't mean Richard Kay, the *Mail* journalist who has car rides with Diana. I mean the family itself. "Well, I've known Andrew Parker-Bowles for years," says Dempster with that

baven't-we-all lift of the eyebrows. "And Diana's brother - when he had that spot of bother with Sally Ann Laxon, he came straight to us." But does he have intimate chats with, say, Princess Margaret, whose biography he wrote (it was published in 1981)? Nigel is evasive. "The sadness of Princess Margaret's life is that she's now very much extraneous to the Royal Family. She said to me in the past. 'The younger ones are growing up and old Auntie won't be needed'."

The odd thing is, we are not here to discuss the Royal Family at all. The occasion of our meeting is the birth of *Dempster's*, a brand new glossy magazine launched on Thursday. A hefty 150-page quarterly, subtitled "Life with Style", it's a marvellously familiar mix of celebrity chat (Liz Hurley and Kenneth Branagh, though not, tragically, together), "Society insight" (druggy marquesses and hotted eurls), fashion and a rather snooty guide to the Season. Imagine *Tatler* with no sophistication or sense of humour and you're there. What's surprising is that the titular Nigel appears on the masthead only as "contributing editor", and contributes little beyond a fooling interview with the Duchess of York about her charities. In fact, he sounds distinctly semi-detached about the enterprise.

"I have an adviser called Neville Shulman," he explains, "who has been looking round for some time for a reputable publishing company, to say to them, do you want to expand your portfolio? It's a mating by Neville of a publisher and my name and my input. It's basically a magazine for women." Why did he want to do it? "I just think if you don't have a crack, you're not going to get anywhere. As you know, I race horses." But how does it feel to have a magazine named after him, like Malcolm Forbes? What does it express of the real Nigel? "I think it's just trying to sell a commodity, like Raleigh bikes. People assume it's a good name and go and buy it."

The magazine's subtitle, "Life with Style", is a worrier - not just because it reeks of the lives-of-the-rich-and-famous routines of *Hello!* magazine, but because "style", as monitored through Dempster's *Daily Mail* column, seems such a tacky business. In that morning's *Mail*, for instance, the Dempster page had carried a story, by no means untypical, about two unknown women. "Winston Churchill's former mistress Jan Cushing and actress Marilyn Galsworthy" misbehaving at a restaurant by spending £904.50 on champagne and caviar and sending the bill to their mutual ex-lover. This is the Alexis Carrington school of ditzzy spite. Wouldn't most readers say, "So what?"

"It shows how much gossip has evolved," says Dempster. "That sort of story would never have been written 10 years ago. Those few paragraphs encapsulate all the appalling behaviour that people reading a newspaper want to hear about." He muses on the plight of the Great Unwashed. "They lead humdrum lives, you see, they don't get out much. In that story, I put in what was said, what they ate and drank, the price and the rest of it and I think people are interested in that simply because they say, 'Jesus, is that what's going on in the world?'"

Durling an hour, coincidentally, the world has been very interested in Mr Dempster. Phone call after phone call demands his view of the Princess of Wales's romantic preoccupations, the likelihood of the Prince's second marriage.

Pink Post-It notes ("This Morning want interview", "BBC World Service TV tomorrow am - pls ring") scule like snowflakes on Dempster's word processor until the screen is wholly obscured. ITN are in the ear park...

Then there's an unmissable summons from above. Sir David English, the sainted Editor-in-chief of the *Mail* titles, would like Nigel's two-penn'orth on Channel One, his new cable station. Could he oblige? So we trot down the corridors, and ascend to a draughty balcony, where Nigel does his perching routine on a marble buttress in front of a rickety camera and it begins again, the same litany of detail: "She's obviously got everything she wants. She's got the title. She's got the money. She's got Kensington Palace. She's got the children - so what more could she want? But she's not a greedy person. Her brother, Lord Spencer..." His black moccasins emphasise his unusually small feet, like a ballerina's; the and his wife are keen balletomanes), and he smooths an errant hair over a wayward carapace with practised hand. There is something inescapably camp about Dempster, an over-emphatic, flaring Englishness shared by Jeremy Brett and Noël Coward, the latter of whom he occasionally resembles (and, while we're at it, with his glasses on he's a ringer for Sir David Frost). You have to remind yourself that the Greatest Living Englishman, in Auberon Waugh's happy phrase, is a foreigner.

Sort of. He's Australian, born in India of a Scottish father and a Cornish mother, a mongrel provenance of which he is clearly proud. "Yes, I am an Australian, and in this job you have to be a foreigner really; you can't sustain the curiosity level if you're part of the whole circuit." He went to Sherbourne (Second term 1955 - I checked in *The Sherbourne Register* which he keeps handy in his drawer) where his best friend was Richard Eyre of National Theatre fame. Open on Dempster's desk is a letter from the Sherbourne School Appeal. "I am so pleased you can join us for lunch at the Cavalry and Guards Club on Wednesday" it begins. Has he always had this devotion to his Alma Mater? Dempster roars. "I was expelled, for God's sake. I was asked to leave. Too disruptive an influence. I would never do as I was told and I had a huge gang of friends, so it felt as if the whole school was being undermined."

After working in Lloyds and the Stock Exchange, he sold vacuum cleaners for a while and drifted into journalism. More to the point, he discovered the Debs' season in March 1959, the moment from which he traces "my downfall", plunging into a hundred balls, boudoirs and cleavages like a dingo in a dinner jacket. Then he started selling little diary pieces to William Hickey at the *Daily Express*, then he met Lord Beaverbrook at Cowes. His *Mail* column started in 1973 and hits its 23rd birthday this year. "I've seen off 11 William Hickeys," he says with satisfaction, perhaps unable to believe that some people might wish to give up writing gossip in favour of something more serious.

Why, I ask, do people need gossip? What's it for? "I think it's a currency," he says. "It's a way of conversing with people when you're sitting on a train and it's cold or you're in the pub at lunchtime and you've nothing to talk about; it's a slightly more sophisticated version of 'Have you heard the one about?' " But isn't it a sociological thing, about feeling

superior to people who are supposed to be your social heaters? "There's an element of having something that puts you in a position of some importance, whether it's a story about a pop group or it's just, 'Have you heard who Diana is with at this precise moment?'"

Actually, Nigel, I was wondering... "The answer is nobody at the moment. After Will Carling there was this chap called Wally, but neither's on her marriage list. I'm pretty sure. She's very lonely at present. In fact, I hear that people are starting to leave the Harbour Club because Diana's always popping up beside them and they don't like it."

How does the column work? Does the stuff about the minor aristocrats come rolling in with every post? "Well, I have lunch with sources every day, of course. But I have literally hundreds of friends and they ring up from all over the world and keep in touch. They're all like-minded people. A chap'll ring me from New York and say, 'You will never believe what happened last night.' They aren't journalists, but they're people who read newspapers and enjoy gossip, they're old pals of mine and they're doing me a favour and maybe themselves one, too." He would not, on the other hand, refrain from sipping up one of the myriad friends, unless it would prejudice the flow of information. "You have to ask yourself, 'What's the point of shafting a regular provider of first-class information for the sake of one story, when they could be helpful and useful for another 15 years?'"

Over the years, Dempster has noted with irritation that his patch has been well and truly invaded. "When I started in newspapers," he reminisces with a sigh, "gossip was in the gossip columns. Now it's on page one, it's on page 100, it's everywhere. There's sporting gossip, political gossip columns, there's even gossip about estate agencies. The thing that I helped to evolve - well, everything's a gossip column now." Do people still get indignant about appearing in diaries, or has society evolved beyond that? "I don't believe there are things that upset people any more - as with oil spillages, people have got used to them. I'm writing pretty much as I did before. But people's thresholds of what's good and bad behaviour do change. Like when Gerald Ronson came out of prison and was photographed shaking hands with the Queen Mother, one of the papers ran a headline saying, 'Have You No Shame?'. The answer is, there is no shame these days."

I leave, shaking my head sadly over the iniquities of the world. Mr Dempster, the man with a thousand friends whose usefulness provide him with an expensive livelihood and a gloopy magazine in his name and his image, is on the phone again. He is arranging to talk to *Good Morning America* next day and this is a pre-talk briefing. He waves goodbye and his voice settles into the familiar, burmished array of certitudes: "No, she's quite entitled to make these statements on her own, she doesn't have to ask Buckingham Palace. She can do what she wants. Although living almost next door to her at Kensington Palace is her sister Jane, who's married to the Prince's secretary, Robert. Bertie Fellowes. Yes she'll keep the Palace. And the children, of course. But she's not a greedy person." The voice follows you, relentlessly, down the corridor.

Is it some sort of identity crisis? Why else would a grown man want to festoon his person with the alphabet?

By Louise Levene

Melanie Eastwick had nametapes in her knickers. No one knew why. Quite what picture her mother had formed of the rough and tumble of kindergarten life was never spelled out but, whatever happened, Deirdre was prepared. The same mystery surrounds the monogramming habit. What do people imagine is going to happen to their pillow cases? Even for the tiny handful of starch queens who send their laundry out, the monogram serves no practical function: laundries mark dirty linen with their own system of cabalistic signs; your button-downs are not being sorted by the any-three-initials you paid £3.50 to have stitched on to the breast pocket.

He climbs out of his BMW (numberplate ESN 1) strolls towards you, combination locked briefcase in hand, the tooling of his maximum-three-initial monogram glinting in the spotlights of the hotel lobby. On his pinkie a two initial ring, at each cuff monogrammed links, his shirt pocket emblazoned with the now familiar logo. Is it some sort of identity crisis? Why else would a grown man want to festoon his person with the alphabet? Perhaps in the hope that the handy mnemonic will awaken in you the memory of a previous meeting. Perhaps he can't remember his own name?

Monogramming is now available in every catalogue you open but has its roots in an older, far more aristocratic tradition, in which plate and linen would be branded with some device to prevent theft and speed up the audit should any of the gear ever pass out of the family at weddings and funerals. It aided identification during the extended family wash and saved squabbles at inns or house parties - travelling without one's own bed linen in the 18th century was unthinkable. Such monogramming still persists in aristocratic establishments where coronets hover grandly over the initials. Unlike the bottom-drawer tradition of the middle-class trousseau, aristocratic linen usually passes through the male line. Should the toff in question marry again the needle-

woman faced the thankless task of unpicking her work and stitching in the new wife's initials - and you wonder why they're all called Caroline. Middle-class monograms were solely to aid in sorting laundry.

Wendy Hefford, deputy curator of Textiles and Dress at the V&A calls attention to *The Workwoman's Guide* of 1840, which recommends the owner's initials followed by the code B for Best, F for Family and S for Servants. Ornamental white work was originally reserved for things that would show, like handkerchiefs, but by the end of the 19th century there was a vogue for larger, more elaborate displays.

The marking of linen had fallen out of favour by the middle of this century, when needlework teaching was in decline and high labour costs made hand embroidery a prohibitively expensive luxury. The development of new technology made machine monogramming quick and easy and led to a revival in the practice of personalisation. Suddenly a bog-standard catalogue purchase could be given that special something by the addition of a few inches of satin stitch. The naughtiness of monogramming is confirmed by the Duchess of York's fondness for it. Her wedding dress, you may remember, sported a gigantic hand-beaded A entwined with an S on the hem.

Outside what Liz Elvin of the Royal School of Needlework affectionately dubs "The Households" there is little call for hand sewn work, although the school will still do it - at a price: three inch-high initials will set you back £60. Back in the 1920s they did all the Queen Mother's trousseau. No doubt should her knickers ever be knocked down at auction they will be identified by the stitchwork - the only reliable means of identifying the many pairs of Queen Victoria's drawers that find their way into the salerooms.

Machine embroidery has deprived the monogram of its cachet. The White House, the London linen specialist, feels that the whole business has become rather declassé. "It's not frightfully English. It's now considered not quite the thing. I think the Americans have rather done it in."



The American appetite for initialled bric-a-brac is almost insatiable. Opinion is divided on the social status of the monogram in the US. Lisa Birnbach, author of *The Preppy Handbook*, claimed that it was good news but Paul Fussler, author of the Waspyish and snobby *Casta Marks* felt that all visible lettering is a sign of lower-class insecurity. The desperate need to personalise everyday objects, he argues, springs from a misguided attempt to ape the upper classes.

In fact, even the Americans aren't as keen as they were, with only 15 per cent of the White House's transatlantic trade requesting the full personal treatment. Or maybe they just begrudge spending £10 for each letter done by a hand-driven machine. The new generation of sewing machines do it far more cheaply and can run off a few letters in seconds. With the serious machines you can programme in a crest and initials of baroque complexity and have it stored for future use.

Eximious, a Belgrave boutique, gives linens a wide berth - "It's so non-U to have monograms on shirts" - a belief confirmed by the fact that Johnny Bryan sports

his initials on his breast pockets - but will gladly slap your name on anything from a champagne stopper to a coat hanger. Their speciality is the christening and wedding present market - and very lucrative it is, too. Their American mailing list has swelled to five million. Eximious proves once and for all the exact social status of monogramming: it has a royal warrant from the Prince of Wales. Charles apparently likes to have his luggage gold blocked. Why? In case it gets lost and ends up in Karachi? Mind you, it might enhance the resale value. Indeed, if Fergie has had the foresight to have her trousseau monogrammed she might just be able to pay off the overdraft.

Doing it yourself:

John Lewis sells sewing machines that monogram. The New Home Memorycraft 4000 has a pre-set alphabet and costs £775. More sophisticated machines can be programmed with any design if you buy a scanner (around £500). Elna Envision £1,550 or Brother Super Galaxy 2 £1,800.

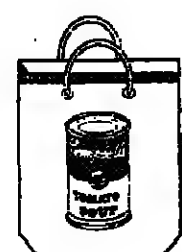
The Royal School of Needlework (0181-943 1432) offers courses ranging from a day to a year in length. A day's needlework lesson costs £36.

The Dover Bookshop, 18 Earham Street, London WC2 (0171-836 211) sells books of decorative monograms.

Harrods will engrave jewellery, lighters and crystal at a rate of £12.50 for two initials. Towels and linens can be monogrammed in three weeks; £5.50 for three one-inch initials.

Eximious, 10 West Halkin Street, London SW1 (0171-235 7828). Supplies anything and everything that is monogrammed, for example three children's beechwood coat hangers with name on, £19.50, a leather chewing-gum holder, £13, or a silver champagne stopper with one initial, £26.50.

The White House, New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-629 3521). Hand-embroidered lawn handkerchiefs with one initial, £7.50.

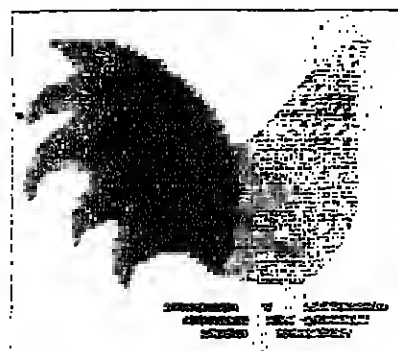


bazaar

Good thing

Susan Lethbridge tapestries, £13.95

Most children's tapestry kits feature teddies and kittens in icy shades of pink and blue. Instead, Susan Lethbridge does humorous designs of farm and jungle animals in bold colours. Our favourites were the cockerel (right) and a fat orang-utan eating a banana. The stitch is ultra simple and at 12 stitches to the inch you can fill the space quickly. Make up the end product into a cushion with a wild gingham backing. Send for a catalogue to Susan Lethbridge Tapestry Designs, Honeycomb, Simonsbath, Nr Minehead, Somerset TA24 7JX (0164 387 1348).



Mad thing

Bath tap salt and pepper mills, £19.95 a pair

If conversation at your dinner parties is prone to dry up, these bath tap salt and pepper mills are guaranteed to supply at least another half a minute of lively conversation. Unscrew the cold for salt, the hot for pepper. Mail order only from Gizmo & Widget, PO Box 3983, London SE22 0RO (0181-299 0891).



Checkout

Muji

Concept: Japanese minimalism, what the novelist Douglas Coupland defined in *Generation X* as "the most frequently offered interior design aesthetic used by rootless career-hopping young people". What Japanese minimalism means in practice is paying £2.75 for 20g of imported seaweed salad. Dinky packaging, though, rust-red on white, and with real Japanese writing, too!

Image: A Japanese Heals? Or an Oriental version of Woolworth's? They really should make up their minds. Stock: A few clothes (often in stereotypically small sizes); chi-chi stationery; Spartan hothouseware; and basic kitchen utensils, many of which are made of aluminium (don't mention the words "Alzheimer's disease"). Upstairs there's an obligatory toilet, but most of the other bits of furniture - and storage boxes - are made either of cardboard or MDF (medium-density fibreboard), which looks like varnished chipboard but costs about 17 times as much. MDF? MFI move like.

Customers: On the afternoon we went, they seemed to consist of polo-necked Europeans, looking like extras from the latest Kiesowski film, and one distinctly puzzled looking Japanese tourist. Surely his yen should have got him more soap to the pound than this (three bars cost £2.60, reduced from £3.95).

Best buys: Muji cola - a talking point in your fridge for just 45p. "Their underwear's very good," a female friend advises. Worst buy: 50 grammes of dried veg (£2.75).

The Muji game: Every so often Muji neglects to label a product in English. Is it a Zen paper clip? A ramen stirrer? An implement to remove stones from Japanese horses' hooves? Questions like these offer hours of fun for all the family.

Where can I find one? Muji has branches in London, on Shelton Street, Kensington High Street and Carnaby Street, and in Glasgow. It also has concessions in Liberty stores. For further information call head office on 494 1197.



AUCTIONS

Following the revelation here last week that 666, the Biblical number of the Beast, had been released for sale to numberplate buffs by the Government's Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, two drivers have reported to me - with a degree of horror that can only be guessed at - that their cars bear the devilish digits. Nadia Dean of South Woodford, London, has G666 WMH and Ken Parkin of Holmfirth, West Yorkshire, has FRC 666V.

Very likely, says the DVLA. Before the prohibition of 666 in 1991, fate was free to bestow the code number of the Beast on hapless new vehicles as it chose. The number's new availability is exclusively through the DVLA's telesales and auctions. It is still never routinely assigned to new cars.

The DVLA has a bulging file of pleas by pre-1991 motorists to rid them of the baleful influence of the Beast by changing their numberplates. Some complained that the sight of 666 appeared to provoke other motorists to bump into them. Others that it was ruining them. "My business problems have become extremely seri-

ous," wrote one, "and may result in closure. This after 25 years trading will you please allow dispensation for a change of number plates."

Whitefriars glass prices, tipped to "go mad" on this page last week, made a predictably loony start at Sotheby's sale last Monday. A lot of seven modern faceted Whitefriars paperweights, estimated £250-£350, brought gasps as the price soared to £1,438. The next lot, eight modern millefiori Whitefriars paperweights with the same estimate, made £943.

New names are always welcome in the depressed modern pictures market. The cover of Sotheby's catalogue for Wednesday's mid-season modern Brit and Irish sale (10.30am) shows the young Mick Rooney's *Seaside Cafe* of 1992 (£10,000-£15,000), a fly-on-the-wall view of an old woman in a flower-decked straw hat sitting at a bright yellow Formica table as a waiter drops a plate in the swirlingly hysterical interior. Rooney's work is seldom seen at auction. William Roberts's *Fifties painting The Birth of Venus* - buxom blonde nude appears before sunburnt fishermen - is a face we have seen somewhere before. Now estimated at £30,000-£40,000 it fetched £82,500 on the crest of the boom in the same saleroom in May 1990. Those were the days.

John Windsor

The best crisps in the world

By Gina Cowen

A few weeks ago my mum and I were driving up to Scotland to visit some relatives we'd never met. That we never even knew we had. Discovered by complete chance during a phone conversation with a listed buildings planning officer on behalf of a Polish friend who was thinking of buying some remote Scottish cottage. The guy turned out to be my second cousin.

On the way up it was only by complete chance that I bought a packet of Seabrook crisps. Stopping off to fill the car just south of Gretna Green I wanted a sandwich. The selection was very sad. I picked up a packet of crisps instead. Spring Onion. Seabrook. Never heard of them, but a nice packet. A Forties design. No lurid colour clashes. No lure of an instant £10,000. Just a packet of crisps. We shared it. My mother handing me crisps while I drove. They lasted about 15 seconds. I suggested we might go back for another couple of packets but a) you can't U-turn on a motorway and b) Mum said "Darling!"

They were the best crisps I'd ever eaten. Previous affairs (with Walkers and Kettles) were over. I kept a surreptitious but unsuccessful Seabrook alert on our short visit to Scotland, and then contrived a stop

on the way down just south of the border. There we were directly opposite the first station. But the station on our side didn't stock Seabrook crisps. This overwhelming urge came over me. As I don't normally risk my life for under 30p I ran across the motorway and bought 25 packets and then ran back. My mother had gone white.

They are crisp, of course. Crinkle cut and sprinkled with sea salt. Thin but not wafer thin. On the packet it says "more than a snack". I think this is because you end up eating about 10 packets. They come in 17 flavours: Original (ie. sea salted), Cheese and Onion. Salt and Vinegar. Prawn Cocktail. Spring Onion. Beef. Smokey Bacon. Canadian Ham. Cheese. Cream Cheese and Chives. Garlic & Herb. Indian Tandoori. Mexican Chilli. Pickled Onion. Roast Chicken. Tomato Sauce. Worcester Sauce. My favourite are Original, followed by Spring Onion, Smokey Bacon and Canadian Ham.

Seabrook are available from the Scottish border to the north Midlands. You can find them in parts of East Anglia, the South Coast, the West Country and Central Scotland. But London? Our loss.

Jack Harrison the sales director

has been with the company for 25 years. He gives the impression that this Bradford-based family business has a certain modest pride in its product. Started in the late Forties by Charles Brook, the business evolved from his fish and chip restaurant, the famous Seabrook Fisheries. The name? The story goes that Charles was picking up some holiday snaps on the Isle of Man and they'd written Seabrook instead of C Brook. Colin Brook the son is now chairman. Richard the grandson is joint managing director. Granddaughter Jane is financial director (and married to a Mr Chrispin). In the past 30 years the company has grown tenfold. There are now two ultra-equipped factories in Bradford, and at Allerton and Princeville.

All is not lost for us down South. Mr Harrison has a mail order book. For £11.05 (incl. p&p; call 01274 546415) you can order a box of 48 packets of any flavour or any mix. That's about 22p a packet. Delivered to your door. "A bit unorthodox," he confesses. Bless you, Mr Harrison. I mentioned this exciting new discovery to a friend who had gone to school up North. She said: "Seabrook? But of course. The best crisps in the world."

NO SOFT DRINK



HOT FROM JAMAICA

Also available in 1.5 litre bottles

arts

It is 11pm at the Groucho Club party to celebrate John Rocha's catwalk triumph at London Fashion Week. I am cornered, somewhere between Van Morrison and Boy George, by Elaine, a drunken stylist from *Murphy's Law*. "Boy George, he really should change his name to... um... Boy Pork. Look at him. Talk about fat. Who the hell dresses him anyway?"

"Voyage," she slurs. "Comme des Garçons. That's what he should be wearing."

"Maybe he dresses himself," I suggest.

"Believe me, sweetheart," says Elaine. "One doesn't dress oneself at a John Rocha party. You approach designers, you think about it, you get advice."

"So what does one wear at a John Rocha party?" I ask.

"John Rocha," she replies. "It is considered polite."

Pretty soon, Van Morrison and Boy George do a song, which, unfortunately, neither of them know, in tribute to John Rocha. It gets a big cheer, as one would expect, especially as everything tonight is getting a big cheer. When John Rocha walks in, he gets a big cheer. He gets a big cheer when he sits down. When somebody says: "Ladies and gentlemen - John Rocha!" he gets another big cheer. When he says: "Thank you," he gets a huge cheer.

We are all thrilled, especially John Rocha, who says: "I'm thrilled!" and everybody cheers. It would be easy to make friends tonight - all you'd have to do is holler: "John Rocha!" and you would immediately be wholeheartedly



DICKIE FANTASTIC on the schmooze

applauded and welcomed into fashionable society. "That's Van Morrison," whispers the lady in front of me queuing for the bar, and the whispers go frontwards and backwards, and pretty soon the whole queue is jabbering about nothing else. Van Morrison is at the back of the queue, waiting for a drink and together we are united in our combined quest to have a drink.

This moment of harmonious rapture lasts exactly 30 seconds, at which time Van Morrison storms elegantly through the throng - as is his unquestionable right as a personage of celebrity - and takes his place at the front of the queue. We allow it, of course; we grin and part. There is absolutely no doubt in anyone's mind that Van Morrison deserves to go to have a drink before us. He is after all, Van Morrison.

And then, a moment later, the spell is broken. "Did you see what that bastard just did?" mutters the lady in front of me. "What a bastard," replies someone else. "Who does he think he is?"

"It's only Van Morrison, for God's sake," says another.

"Bastard," we all agree. And then Van Morrison emerges from the front of the queue, elegantly, clutching a drink, and we all smile ingratiatingly.

If we are to confer a gift on future generations, it should be something bold but practical

"If an earthquake were to engulf England tomorrow," the popular Victorian author Douglas Jerrold once wrote, "the English would manage to meet and dine somewhere among the rubbish, just to celebrate the event." Jerrold was making fun of the Victorian passion for jubilee and jamhoree, a commitment to civic festivities that has bequeathed to us endless photographs of top-hatted dignitaries taking a 14-course meal in the Greenwich Foot Tunnel or inside the western tower of the Saltash suspension bridge. For Jerrold the British displayed a sort of national genius for commemoration, however inappropriate or temporary the object of their celebration. But we have lost the knack, it seems. Simon Jenkins, who is one of the Millennium Commissioners, the body responsible for dispensing some £1.6bn of lottery funds, has reportedly expressed disappointment at the unimaginative nature of most of the bids he and his colleagues are receiving.

I will confess myself to having a small fantasy about the millennium, one based on the equally illogical glee with which children wait for the mileometer in a car to tick over from 9,999 miles to 10,000. Like the millennium, this event is purely numerical - the mile that succeeds is exactly the same as the mile before it, the inside of the car just as tedious as it was before. And yet the chorus line of numbers seems to mark a moment of significance, to offer a reprieve from boredom. In my recollection of this experience,



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

though, we almost always missed the transition - we would be warned that it was on its way, stare dutifully at the tumbling succession of digits and then be distracted by something more interesting out of the window. When we remembered to check again it always seemed to have moved on, to 10,002. My occasional daydream is that the same might happen with the millennium, that the current frenzy of anticipation will give way to boredom and that half-way through 2002 someone will say, "Oh no! We missed it!"

It won't happen, naturally, which means that we have to address ourselves to the question of how best to extract value for money from the huge sums to be spent on celebration. And it seems to me that any decent scheme must sit on one of two extremes - it must itself be millenarian in its ambitions, aiming at a durability measured in hundreds of years, or it must be determinedly transitory, an event designed to have a firework's lifespan, but to leave a glowing after-image in the mind's eye. The Crystal Palace provides an interesting case history in this respect - a prodigious achievement of Victorian technology which lived beyond its designed lifespan. Paxton's building was, literally, a crystallisation of Victorian engi-

neering confidence - a building of such imaginative audacity that it forced new building techniques to be developed. But it was not intended by its creator as a permanent building. The ingenious and efficient guttering, for instance, which carried away rainwater and internal condensation, was made out of oak - a fact that contributed to the building's final immolation. But without that fire the legacy of the Crystal Palace would be very different - an embarrassment in Sydenham rather than the most glorious glasshouse ever. There are few things more bleak than a pavilion that has outlived its purpose. Go and look at the Alexandra Palace if you doubt it.

The lesson that the Crystal Palace teaches is that permanent memorials must be flexible, must be able to bend themselves to changes in use and reverence. There is a scheme that already exists which meets all the necessary criteria. It is bold but practical and would leave a durable legacy. This is Richard Rogers's plan (already worked out in considerable detail) to transform the banks of the Thames by burying the traffic of the Embankment beneath a park and stitching the two sides of the river together with new bridges. If we are to confer a gift on succeeding generations it should be something like this, not one that will grow old to embarrass them but one that will simply grow.

At the other extreme, that of exuberant but temporary joy, there is already a private scheme well advanced - the proposal for a Mil-



Walking on ice: a 17th-century pleasure

Mary Evans Picture Library

lennium wheel on the South Bank of the river. But I would like to propose another - one that draws its inspiration from the most tantalising of historical jubilees. London should have another ice-fair - should intoxicate itself with the marvel of walking on water, a pleasure provided for free in the 17th century, when the combination of icy winters and restricted flow through London Bridge allowed

the Thames to freeze over and carnival to spill out of narrow streets. These days we couldn't rely on nature to do the freezing - but the obvious site is perfectly placed - Millwall Outer and Inner Dock, at the heart of the Greenwich site, perfectly served by the London Docklands Railway. Best of all, when the celebrations were finished it would melt away, leaving no trace but a memory of delight.

reviews

THEATRE *The Ends of the Earth*, Cottesloe, London

Your baby daughter is gravely ill and you, a heavy smoker, are led to believe that you can save her life by forswearing fags. That's the fraught, fable-like situation facing the protagonist of David Lan's new play *The Ends of the Earth*. An English geologist at work on the construction of a dam in an unnamed Balkan state, Daniel (Michael Sheen) has started to crack up badly. His wife (Samantha Bond) has had to leave her sick baby and fly out to persuade him to come home. He's informed that there's an old wise man who wants to help him: their encounter ends with the injunction against smoking.

There's a compelling novel by Brian Moore called *Cold Heaven* in which the heroine is lured with a similar plight. The husband she was just about to leave becomes dependent on her agreeing to play Bernadette to recurrent apparitions of the Virgin Mary. It's a more awkwardly intimate and intense sacrifice that is demanded here, one nicely calculated not to alleviate the self-obsession that the audi-

ence might diagnose as Daniel's chief problem.

The trouble with this often-gripping piece is its failure to establish a strong enough sense that the central couple are, first and foremost, loving, grievously worried parents and that it's from this anxiety that all the self-referring guilt and festering introspection springs. The baby, however, is so palpable a presence in either the piece or in Andrei Serban's otherwise tremendous traverse production that you begin to think she's wholly a projection of her parents' problems rather than a human being in her own right. She exists only to the extent that she can be used to set up the facile irony that it's her father who is really sick.

The same is largely true of the civil strife we witness between the Balkan mountain people and the valley people. Daniel's dam has exacerbated this, since the water will cause dispossession and will flood the site of an historic battle. Just as the question of the baby's life is subordinated to her father's existential pilgrimage, so the predicament of

the Balkan people seems to be dramatised, principally to illustrate to Daniel the contradictions and conundrums of responsibility. It also steers the play into hollow melodrama. In the worst scene, Daniel is forced to smoke again to save the life of a captured beaten man. "They killed my sons! Your daughter is alive. Why should yours live and mine die?" cries the perpetrator of the situation. At such moments, the play seems to have all the human interest of an algebraic equation.

Samantha Bond, as the wife, copes heroically with some pretty ungrateful dialogue: "My darling, my sweet, the man I care about and love, really love, adore. I'm your friend." And Michael Sheen brings a wonderful end-of-the-tether intensity to Daniel, making him a complex, driven creature who, you feel, deserves a better fate than simply to learn the banal lesson that nobody can give you the answers, you have to find them for yourself.

In rep. Booking: 0171-928 2252

Paul Taylor

TELEVISION TFI Friday, (Channel 4)

A programme that names the day in its title advertises the mood it is aiming for. See *First Tuesday* or *Saturday Night Live*. TFI Friday's saucy initials - F stands for Four, honestly - capture the spirit of devil-may-care that comes over us all on Roofs Day (Push Off Early - Tomorrow's Saturday, in case you're wondering). What makes it quintessentially a Friday product, even though it's not a programme about horticulture, is the fact that it is unavailable for advance viewing, and therefore for review.

More programmes go out live on a Friday, or are recorded very close to transmission, than any other evening of the week. This is something for the weekend night, when the dissemination of laughter is television's principal business. But in an ever more competitive market, comedians are like the building societies that all edgily set identical interest rates - nobody likes to appear at a disadvantage, so they all

have to be up to the minute.

The notable exception is *Gag Tag*, an entertainment cheerfully, almost heroically, impervious to topicality. Plainly, it must have been recorded in the past five years, because there was a joke last night about John Major, but the only other PM joke referred to Harold Wilson, who left office 20 years ago. This being the last in the current series, presumably we'll have to wait for the Disraeli gags.

You can tell it's from the old school because traditional comedy's self-defence mechanism has always been to deplore the weakness of its own jokes before anyone else can. Quizmaster Bob Monkhouse did a running joke about the awfulness of the guests that went closer to the bone than it intended. "Let's take a hutchers' at our comedians," he said at the start, and you could see the punchline lumbering like a brontosaurus over the horizon. "No, better

idea: let's take our comedians to the hutchers'."

Gag Tag's marriage of young comedians and old is a bid to argue that the alternative revolution was just a violent blip. The second-division performers certainly deliver a watertight case - the young pretenders are just as afflicted by gag sag as the old guard.

There were two moments of genuine wit - once when Eddie Large suggested a line you would never hear in a hospital: "There's a waiting list, your Highness." Large is starting to look alarmingly like John Prescott, and just this once he sounded like him, too. And Phil Jupitus, trying to paraphrase *The Silence of the Lambs*, came up with "Blimey, the livestock isn't making a lot of noise." The livestock in the audience loved that one, but not as much as Monkhouse's joke about people who chew condoms. There's no accounting for taste.

Jasper Rees



Art. Bursting across the North of England in 1996.

8000 miles square by 9 months long. Visual Arts UK is the biggest celebration of visual arts this country has ever seen. During 1996, it will span the North of England and all areas of the visual arts.

Major exhibitions... including Tate on the Tyne, the Arts Council Collection of new purchases and Anglo-Saxon Treasures

at the Laing. Big names...including Gormley, Goldsworthy, Abramovic, Chillida, Jarman and Velázquez. Every kind of visual art...painting, sculpture, jewellery, textiles, kites, banners and glass.

Visual Arts UK can be experienced in new galleries and public spaces, in magnificent museums, in fields and forests.

coast to coast. From international carnivals to local festivals, it brings art into the community and onto the streets. Set in spectacular countryside and vibrant cities, Visual Arts UK is an explosion of great art in great places.

Visual Arts UK across the North of England. You've got to see it, to see it.



Be part of it.

Detailed programme information available from Tourist Information Centres across the North of England and on <http://www.visartsuk.org.uk>



Boys and girls came out to play

Once upon a time there were no teenagers. Then JD Salinger, James Dean and Elvis Presley appeared in the fall-out from the birth of the Atomic Age. As a cross-media festival of 'The Fifties' runs over coming weeks in several cities, Michael Bracewell explores the origins of youth culture

"Sleep tight ya morons!" So Holden Caulfield, the teen hero of JD Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*, bids farewell to his schooling at Pencey Prep and invents the teenager as a type within literary fiction. When we link Salinger with Elvis Presley and Jimmy Dean as the founding trinity of teenage rebellion in America, we tend to forget that *The Catcher in the Rye* was published in serial form between 1945 and 1946 – 10 years before *Rebel Without a Cause* rocketed Dean to stardom and Elvis had his first hit with "Heartbreak Hotel". In this much, Caulfield was a voice ahead of his time, making his first appearance at the same time Bogart was immortalising Chandler's Philip Marlowe in *The Big Sleep*.

There were no such beings as teenagers – in a cultural sense – when Salinger created his adolescent hero of angst and ennui: there were boys and girls who had no more connection with the adult world than high schools had with a speakeasy. And that adult world was still being presented, for the most part, as a mixture of the lurid and the sophisticated, with adultery, double-dealing and dinner jackets vying for prominence as the emblems of glamour. Twenty years earlier, in *Tales of the Jazz Age*, F. Scott Fitzgerald had created a teenage character called Basil Lee whose initial response to the strain of being unpopular at private school had been to fantasise a role for himself as an aristocratic secret agent in the international high society of New York. Basil's teenage revolution had been utterly divorced from adult reality – a premonition of *film noir* as pure fairy-tale. Holden, on the other hand, was wholly modern, crashing down the barriers between innocence and experience with no more than a shrug and a yawn – which made him all the more shocking. Holden was wise beyond his years, and it would take the best part of a decade for the youth of America to catch up with his groundbreaking example.

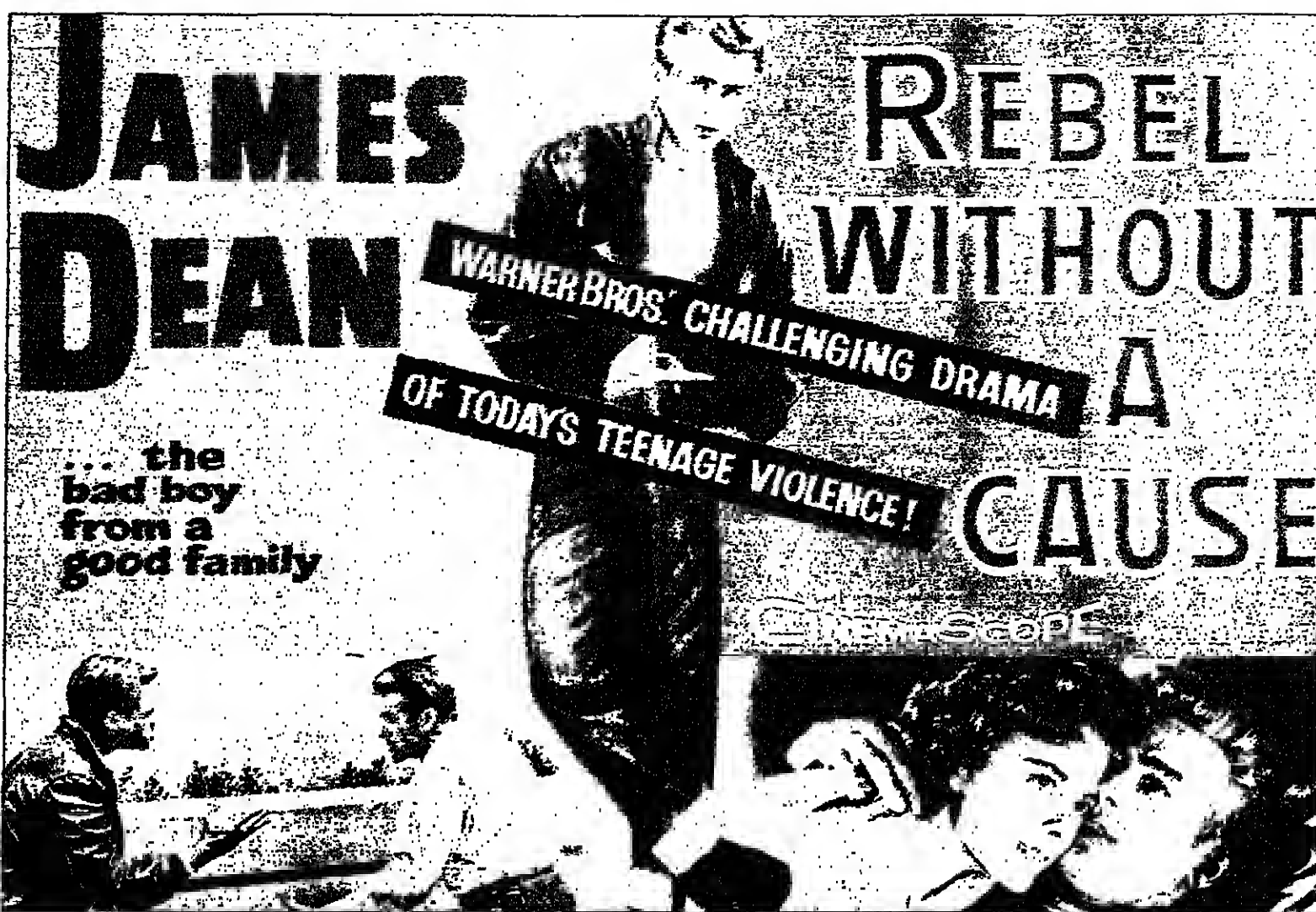
Placed in the broader picture, we can see how Salinger's hero was turning his back on adolescent conformity just as the United States Air Force was dropping the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Historically, he is the first teenage witness of the Atomic Age, finding his formative maturity in a period that was as critical as the one Henry James had experienced and described in 1913. Spiritually, the world was a harder place to believe in. By 1946, just as the new epoch of shark-finned Cadillacs, chrome trimmings and domestic technology was waiting to begin, so another era – as antiquated, by comparison, as Scott Fitzgerald's high society – was coming to an end. And it is out of the collision of these two distinct phases in history that the teenager, with protest on his mind, finally emerges.

We can see how Salinger caught the wave of change and embodied its force in Caulfield when we consider Salinger's education in relation to that of his fictional representative. Salinger attended the Valley Forge Military Academy in Pennsylvania – a manly, anti-intellectual, but expensive private school at which one was force-fed the rugged virtues of patriotism and the pioneer spirit. As with

Holden's private school of Pencey Prep, there was an authority to rebel against. Rushing forward 20 years, to 1968, when Lindsay Anderson's *If* described a parable of teenage rebellion within an English public school, we can see how potent the equation between private education and adolescent revolt had become. Unlike the fine line between "exploitation films" and social realism, which was blurred to sensational effect in British and American delinquency films in the late 1950s (*Violent Playground* being the best example), Anderson's portrait of a teenage anarchist shares Holden's background of sequestered, bourgeois schooling. The invention of the teenager, in cultural terms, can be seen as a transaction of language and attitude between the hitherto silenced "working class" and the newly expanded middle class.

Like Holden, Salinger was ambivalent about the old Episcopalian and military traditions of his alma mater, toying with ambiguous respect for his teachers but finally pronouncing them, and their morality, to be "phony". The world of Valley Forge had hit the rocks with the atomic bomb, and any youngster with his eyes half open had to see right through its archaic pretensions. In a neat twist of irony, Salinger's co-revolutionary in American fiction of the post-war period, William S. Burroughs, had attended a similarly rugged and exclusive school at Los Alamos, Santa Fe, which was requisitioned under the War Powers Act of 1943 to become the isolated research centre for the very atomic bomb that was dropped on Japan in 1945. The film-maker John Waters, whose brilliantly observed comedies of teenage life in Baltimore in the 1950s do much to define the founding philosophy of teenagers, makes *Atomic Age* paranoia a central feature of the antagonism between the younger and the older generations. With teenagers, it could be said, the bomb was a social metaphor as much as a political reality, and vice versa.

By the time *The Catcher in the Rye* really took off as a publishing sensation of the early 1950s, Salinger was the reluctant celebrity author who had shaped the teenager as a tragicomic outlaw on the verge of an existential crisis. No literary novel before *The Catcher in the Rye* had spoken directly to its readers in the true voice and slang of youth. In cinema, too, as the one Henry James had experienced and described in 1913. Spiritually, the world was a harder place to believe in. By 1946, just as the new epoch of shark-finned Cadillacs, chrome trimmings and domestic technology was waiting to begin, so another era – as antiquated, by comparison, as Scott Fitzgerald's high society – was coming to an end. And it is out of the collision of these two distinct phases in history that the teenager, with protest on his mind, finally emerges.



Trainspotting. Swearing and conversational shorthand came as naturally to Salinger as nightingales did to Keats.

It is interesting to note that this ease of style, establishing the teenager's need for authenticity and sincerity, was the result of meticulous revision and Flaubertian attention to craft on the part of Salinger. This was no automatic writing, or proto-Beat transcription of everyday speech: each sentence in the novel is honed to suit the nuance of its scene and the intoxicating charm of the whole. And it hadn't been done before. To a potentially massive readership of potential teenagers, *The Catcher in the Rye* spoke to them in their own language, seducing them into its philosophy of mistrust, rebellion and self-reliance. This was a device that would be used to darker effect in 1962, when Burgess penned *A Clockwork Orange* in the cool slang of *nausai*.

There is a very short step from the ethos of *The Catcher in the Rye* to the glamour of Jimmy Dean in *Rebel Without a Cause*. The original promotional poster for *Rebel Without a Cause* comes with a Salingeresque strap-line: "Jim Stark – a kid in the year 1955 – what makes him tick like a bomb?" The film's account of the gauche teenage outsider, finding his way through the minefield of small-town high-school society, pursues the same sympathetic course between violent emotion and hypersensitivity as *The Catcher in the Rye*. Jim

Stark, though less assured than Holden Caulfield, is a teenager by virtue of his search for sincerity and a voice he can call his own. Indeed, Stark's rejection of his father rehearses Kurt Cobain's lyric that "I always wanted a father but still I got a 'Dad'". As a teenage trait, the questioning of the family against a background of volatility and nervous boredom creates characters who, when faced with the traditional rites of passage, would sooner not bother. As a teenage tenet, this will run and run, finding its way through SE Hinton's *Rumblefish*, to the "Generation X" fiction of Douglas Coupland.

Central, therefore, to the literature of teenage disaffection, is the iron curtain of apocalyptic dread (a sense that the world has already ended) and an opposition to the nuclear family. What is required, emotionally and spiritually, is an older brother or a girl to believe in. True to the social and cultural suppression of women, however (even in the teenage revolution, girls were allotted strict roles as either swooning fans or blooming girlfriends), girls come second best to the sibling peer as brother and poet who can offer an escape from the world of "old people" which has grown precarious. Thus, what DB is to Holden Caulfield, as a near visionary poet brother, so the *Motorcycle Boy* is to Rusty James in *Rumblefish*. The elder brothers are martyrs for the teenage revolution, just as girlfriends can become

new Eves if the teenage rebellion can achieve its rock 'n' roll Eden.

With rock 'n' roll as the teenage soundtrack, Elvis Presley could articulate youth instinctively, with none of the artistic labour required by Salinger or Dean. Just as Salinger was middle class and Dean rural middle class, so Elvis was as poor as a white could be in the southern states of America. He learnt to sing from black choirs and white radio, but his genius lay in reversing the cleanliness of white popular music to announce the exuberance and frustration of teenagers. There was nothing intellectual about Elvis (although, like Salinger and Dean, he later discovered comparative religion and eastern philosophy), and his embodiment of rock 'n' roll, as a fusion of black and white music, stormed the barricades of race and class in a way that *The Catcher in the Rye* – as a middle-class phenomenon – could never achieve. But Salinger, it could be argued, had given intellectual authority to what Dean and Presley would translate into the mainstream media of popular culture. A self-fuelling loop was created during the 1950s by the teenage trinity of Salinger, Presley and Dean that expressed the mood of the new Atomic Age youth. This loop would simply keep on running, endlessly referring back to itself, for successive generations.

In *The Catcher in the Rye*, through the voice and dismissive philosophy of

A kid in the year 1955: James Dean as gauche teenage outsider in *Rebel Without a Cause* – violent emotion, hypersensitivity and an apocalyptic dread of the nuclear family. Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

Holden Caulfield, we can hear echoes of Arthur Rimbaud's 19th-century teen revolt ("I am from beyond the grave, Really" – wrote Rimbaud in his *Illuminations* – "And out of work"), to say nothing of Fourier's *Le Grand Meaulnes* or Gide's *Bernard Prefigendieu*. Teenagers had been around for a long time, but before *The Catcher in the Rye* they had lacked a defining personage that would captivate their audience and carry their message on a groundswell of unofficial revolution. Once found, the teenage voice would be laced with irreverence and humour, attempting to make an impossible marriage between nihilism and optimism. As Holden remarks in *The Catcher in the Rye*: "Anyway, I'm sort of glad they've got the atomic bomb invented. If there's ever another war, I'm going to sit right the hell on top of it. I'll volunteer for it, I swear to God I will."

'The Fifties' season runs to 21 April at venues in Birmingham, Cardiff and at the South Bank in London. Michael Bracewell will talk about 'The Invention of the Teenager' at the Royal Festival Hall, London SE1 (0171-928 8800) today, 7.30pm

THE WEEK IN REVIEW
David Benedict

KEY	OVERVIEW	CRIME FICTIONS	THE PLAY	THE EXHIBITION
EXCELLENT	CRIME FICTIONS Salinger's <i>Catcher in the Rye</i> is a homage to film noir, designed by Kim Brandstrup, designed by Kim Brandstrup, designed by Kim Brandstrup.	THE PLAY Noel Coward's autobiographical comedy about the life and loves of a narcissistic matinee idol is revived again, this time with Peter Bowles, Deborah Grant and Caroline Langstaff.	THE EXHIBITION Peter Greenaway creates a detailed installation, Douglas Gordon slows down <i>Psycho</i> , our Damien (Hirst) makes a movie and Paula Rego and six other artists celebrate the centenary of cinema.	
GOOD	CRIME FICTIONS Salinger and Anderson's <i>If</i> is a homage to film noir, designed by Kim Brandstrup, designed by Kim Brandstrup, designed by Kim Brandstrup.	THE PLAY Paul Taylor found Bowles doing "too much indulgent mugging" in "Richard Olivier's overboard, effortful production". "Too broad," agreed the <i>Standard</i> . "Lines which should vault hammy and hilariously across the footlights... do not take off at all," yawned the <i>Times</i> . "Noisily overplayed," groaned the <i>Guardian</i> . "I sincerely hope I never have to sit through it again," announced the <i>Telegraph</i> .	THE EXHIBITION Adam Mars-Jones hated "pretentious" Hirst, liked "witty" Boyd Webb but "the core pleasures are to be found in the installations of Paolozzi and Greenaway." Damien Hirst: "What an arsehole!" Greenaway has difficulty telling life from celluloid, <i>Time Out</i> . Paula Rego: "The strongest work she's ever done... enough in it to merit a visit," approved the <i>Telegraph</i> .	
POOR	CRIME FICTIONS Salinger's <i>Catcher in the Rye</i> is a homage to film noir, designed by Kim Brandstrup, designed by Kim Brandstrup, designed by Kim Brandstrup.	THE PLAY At the Aldwych Theatre (0171-416 6003): to 20 April.	THE EXHIBITION At the Hayward Gallery, London SE1 (0171-960 4208) to 5 May.	

A humanist's holiday in Hell

John Mortimer offers a reader's guide to Dante's *Inferno*

Dante's *Inferno* is a 14th-century poem that seems calculated to cause the greatest possible pain to a 20th-century humanist, or to anyone who is attracted to Christianity because of its compassion and belief in the possibility of redemption. The God of the *Inferno* has precious little compassion and no forgiveness. He was the God who not only turned a blind eye to Belsen, but also exercised great ingenuity in constructing His own blood-chilling concentration camp, where sinners should suffer, not only during their brief lives, but for all eternity.

What is particular about Dante's God is that He consigns sinners to their particular circle in Hell according to an immutable tariff of offences. No attention is paid to mitigating circumstances, or the idea of doing justice to the individual soul before the Divine Court. Hell, in short, was made on exactly the lines that the present Home Secretary would wish to impose on our present sentencing system.

How do we reconcile the enjoyment of a great poem with what must seem, to many of us today, a repellent theology? Our own views may be best captured by Ulysses in his speech to his sailors. He celebrates the dignity of man and says: "You were not born to live as a mere brute does. But for the pursuit of knowledge and the good". But such sensible humanism is, apparently, no better than the excuses of the gluttons and the adulterers. Ulysses is condemned as a thief and must suffer in Hell.

In an admirable Preface to Robert Pinsky's translation, John Freese deals with past attempts to enjoy the poem without revulsion. Coleridge advised us to "suspend disbelief" and enjoy the poetry without accepting the theology. Erich Auerbach sug-

The *Inferno* of Dante

translated by Robert Pinsky

illustrated by Michael Mazur

Dent, £20

gested we separate "Dante's didactic intent from his power of representation", and held that the reality of the condemned characters overwhelmed their allegorical meaning. Perhaps we should simply remember how Dante suffered from the ruthless power-seeking and political intrigue in Florence and take Hell as an accurate picture of politics today.

The Christian God of the early Renaissance is cruel and vindictive, but his victims and the pilgrim visitors are capable of finer emotions. In the fifth Canto, and one of the poem's most beautiful passages, Francesca da Rimini, lover of her brother-in-law, Paolo, is found in the Circle of Incontinence, forever blown like a starling across a stormy sky, denied sleep or rest for ever, thrashed by the wind and calling harsh cries of agony. Francesca tells the poet that she and her lover read about Lancelot and Guinevere, the great illicit lovers, and their eyes met and "they read no more that day".

Dante describes the moment when he hears Francesca's story. He is so overcome with pity for her that he falls down like a dead man. Later he finds his kind old tutor Brunetto Latini tormented among the Sodomites, condemned to burn for a hundred years if he takes a second's rest. "Might I have had my will," Dante says, "You would not have been thrust apart from human life." Perhaps one moral to be drawn from the *Inferno* is that, when it comes to a comparison between men and gods,

mankind usually comes out best.

This extraordinary poem, in which Dante's contemporaries, friends and enemies, together with such legendary and historical figures as Dido, Theseus, Odysseus and Brutus, suffer the ingenious torments of the damned, has been much translated. The main problem has been what to do with Dante's *terza rima*, an infernally ingenious but musically effective rhyme-scheme which calls for three rhymes repeated in the order ABA BCB CDC DED and so on. Some translators, such as John Sinclair, have avoided the daunting issue and turned the poetry of the *Inferno* into prose. Shelley translated a passage from the *Purgatorio* into pretty good *terza rima*. Dorothy L. Sayers, made of sterner stuff, used it in the whole of her verse translation with much success.

Robert Pinsky, a distinguished American poet, in his introduction blames the English language for being poor in rhyme, a proposition with which Byron, WS Gilbert and Cole Porter might not agree. He therefore makes considerable use of poor or "consonantal" rhymes of the sort used so effectively by Yeats and Auden. In my view they don't serve the magnificent sweep and clangour of the *Inferno* so well; but there are passages of beauty.

The advantages of this book are its illustrations (although I'd rather have Doré's) and the fact that the Italian original is printed on each opposite page. Even with my sketchy knowledge of the language, I can use Pinsky as a crib and enjoy the wonders of *terza rima*. I'd recommend getting hold of Sayers' version, too; it has a valuable glossary of names. Both translations are compulsively readable, just as the great poem is still calculated to make a humanist's hair stand on end.



'I was a man of arms, and after that became a corded friar': Michael Mazur's illustration for Canto XXVII

Upper-class yells from a quiet man

Bernard O'Donoghue discovers virile songs and blooming irises in four new collections

Robert Crawford's view of Masculinity (Cape, £7.00) is sceptical, often expressed in evocatively repulsive images, like the smell of "unshowered Number Eights". But the trenchancy of his earlier poetry is only prominent in two of this book's four sections. The others are concerned with his relations with wife, child and parents: they show a tender and pious gravity which we hadn't seen before from this declarative and separatist-inclined Scot. The new Crawford is described in the first poem as, like his father, *homo vltim*. "A Quiet Man".

Not that Crawford's rhetorical virility entirely deserves him as he exposes the defects of masculine ideology. The second poem, "Chaps", has an acting note: Crawford is an outstanding performer of his poems; the refrain must be "first of all yelled in an upper-class English voice - 'CHEPS!' before, 'falling to a whisper at the end'".

Some of the best effects come by way of resistance to the quietness of the family poems, as when the *ita nova* of the previously ambitious young artist is expressed by the admirable neologism "Bovrilised". The relief at the escape back into verbal sparks is unmissable in "Scotch Broth".

"A soup so thick you could shake its hand And stroll with it before dinner". The domestic poems are often beautiful and accomplished, especially those that offset the threat of domestic mawkishness with the consonantal roughness of Scots. But stand by for the old Crawford again, with sleeves rolled for more than the washing-up.

Ruth Padel is another vigorous and forceful exponent of language, whose new book *Eusewre* (Chatto, £6.99) runs two themes together: sex (not new in her poems) and English colonising of Ireland. What is most striking

about her anti-colonial rhetoric in the latter is that their fierce, dry irony could not be employed by an Irish writer without appearing inflammatory. Padel works her two subjects together brilliantly in titles like "Your Place or Mine?".

The second of the book's two epigraphs introduces the perfect figure for the amalgam: "Desire paths", which are "private routes through public spaces" that urban planners have not allowed for. The harshness of sex in the war-zone, in poems such as "Desire Paths of Sarajevo", is reminiscent of *Gravely's Rainbow* in its bleakness. What is so impressive and so desolating is the Dantesque sense of misery in the spirit's fated, instinctive push towards happiness which is bound to fail in these contexts - and also maybe in any other.

Padel is an outsider in Ireland, and "foreign" is a recurrent term. Michael O'Loughlin, who has been credited with trying to write into

Irish history the Dublin urban experience it has ignored, is now on the well-beaten track of Irish poets abroad. In *Another Nation: New and Selected Poems* (Arc/New Ireland Books, £6.95), his language is lively, exuberant and profligate, as he attempts to cross-fertilise Irish culture with a multilingual cosmopolitanism, reading like a more innocent, if no less ambitious, Stephen Dedalus. Despite the attractive energy, the speed and range of his references (to Trakl, Vermeer, Tsvetaeva, Brahms, Veldego) can lead to a blurring of purpose. Thus we understand his desire for the non-urban simplicity of "Michael Hartnett's Irish".

"I heard the sound Of the snow falling through moonlight"

Onto the empty fields, "while recognising uneasily that such romanticism represents a back-sliding from O'Loughlin's grander programme.



Ruth Padel: anti-colonial rhetoric

Louise Glück is never romantic, despite her extraordinarily Romanticism-derived subject. *The Wild Iris* (Carnegie, £8.95) is the ultimate *passage moralisée*, an account of the passing year, with the days divided into the canonical hours of dawn and dusk, through addresses from flowers to gardeners. Often this turns magnificently into an address from creation to God, since the year is a plant's lifespan. The book achieves

in every line that most difficult of poetic tasks, to make the personal widely significant. With the medieval European lyric-poets, Glück returns obsessively to the tragedy of the human in contrast to flowers: we don't bloom again. Like all large subjects, this sounds trite; the poems could not be less so, as would be evident from any quotation. The second of the seven "Matins" poems ends: "We merely know it wasn't human nature to love only what returns love."

A feature of 20th-century reaction to poetry on this side of the Atlantic is that we have been so late coming to an appreciation of the great American poets, especially women such as Bishop and Adrienne Rich. We are indebted to publishers like Anvil and Carcanet who have kept writers like Glück in our sights. She is a poet of enormous importance and intelligence; we must not miss her.

Entrancements on the local bus

Jeff Nuttall encounters priestly kisses and exiled flautists

John Ashbery doesn't half go on. His *Can You Hear, Bird* (Carcanet, £4.95) is the latest in a steady tide of work in which his strange, laconic ecstasy is constant and unchanging. Reading him is like sitting on a bus next to a compulsive talker who promises to be the highest bore in the world until you realise that he is entranced and so are you. He would continue nattering whether you were there or not. It is your exceptional good fortune that you are admitted to this wry, private litany.

The casual tone of these poems, which sometimes start in mid-sentence, confounds the formal norms a reader may expect. The titles don't seem to have a lot to do with the text much of the time, and the text is whispered in the ear, a droll commentary on the procession of cunningly disconnected day-to-day miracles filing past Ashbery's senses. "So runs, says he, 'the carousel we call life'".

The disconnected interaction of his successive experiences is the secret dynamic of his work. "Music played by a gifted child puts me in mind of a cigar I smoked on a picket line once," he says. Another time he was "digging a fire trench." Along came a fireball, stopped, asked the time of day, and went politely on his way. The speaker is continuously surprised and so are we.

Much of Ashbery's verse avoids obvious metre. The rhythms are oblique even when, in the long poem, "This Tuesday", he flirts with rhyming quatrains. Ashbery is a poet of vastly greater stature than any of them, but Ogden Nash, Bill Moenchhaus, the crazy Dadaist of Hoagy Carmichael's college days, and Groucho Marx are all among his antecedents.

Similarly Ashbery is among the antecedents of Tess Gallagher's *Portable Kisses* (Bloodaxe, £7.95). Even in the midst of a most gra-

ciously negotiated grief for her dead husband, Raymond Carver, she maintains a light and wonder-struck touch for a world that is never blamed for her personal misfortune. Carver's vacated spaces are thronged with kisses which are not acts, nor gestures, but which, in a spirit akin to that of Ashbery, are personae, nuisance children, priest confessors. Like Ashbery's, her tone is quiet, anti-rhetorical and friendly.

Roy Fisher has Ashbery's scale and in his more radical pieces like "The Ship's Orchestra", an oddball novella, something of Ashbery's delight in the disconnected. "The Ship's Orchestra" is included in *The Dow Low Drop* (Bloodaxe, £8.95) which includes all his work already published in an earlier *Selected Poems* with some new work added, including a selection of passages from the title poem.

Fisher, like Bunting and Ken Smith, is one of the few British

poets this century who have joined topographical material with humour and mimations of destiny. He ranges the Midlands landscape like a guide, with a kind of morose avidity for fact and detail, always bewildered about how scenes of such turbulence and invention have grown so oddly quiet.

The anecdotes are always vivid and often about humanity's inability to deal with its own realities. There is a tonic frontal sanity about Fisher's work and his self-deprecatory humour can make the reader (this one anyway) yelp with laughter. For instance: "Men call me Roy. Fisher. Women call me: remote."

Fisher is quoted in the back cover of Ian Pople's *The Glass Enclosure* (Arc, £5.95), praising Pople's work, and you can see why. Pople writes about places illuminated by the disjointed cultures they accommodate. Thus we have



Kate Clanchy: compassion for men

a European Roman Catholic Christ bleeding all over Manchester. There is an accurate and particular awareness of one holocaust or another running concurrent with domestic and regional coincidences: "F.I.S.'s peel back the fabric of sky. The sun shapes/ turrets and adobe houses/ into Downham Marker and Swafham." The rhythm is doggedly incantatory throughout. What

saves Pople from being another despondent poetic voice is his skill with the extraordinary.

Charles Boyle's *Palace* (Faber, £6.99), although immaculately written, is in danger of being one more fed-up slim volume about British urban life which everybody knows is dire. So is Kate Clanchy, although in her first collection, *Slattern* (Chatto, £6.99), she expresses a perceptive, unsentimental compassion for the male of the species.

An Irish flautist busking in an alien city for his fare back to Larnie is just one of a number of men and boys in these pages. With vowels composed into sequences of considerable beauty, she explores the difficult excitement of the violence, failure and disaster of human energy without condemnation and with a great deal of vivid compassion, notably in a telling poem about the James Bulger case.

Gender bending

So men sometimes write as women, and women write as men. 'So what?' asks Judith Palmer

The Routledge Anthology of Cross-Gendered Verse

edited by Alan Michael Parker and Mark Willhardt

Routledge, £11.99 paperback

Once upon a time there was a poem, and it lived happily in its own slim volume. One day the poem caught the eye of an anthologist. "You're just what I've been looking for," said the anthologist. "Come home with me and I'll make you famous. You can live in my anthology with lots of other poems. I know you'll get on together, you have so much in common."

He had been a rich multi-layered poem of shifting meanings and vibrant ambiguities. "You won't need those here," said the anthologist, as he stripped him of his shimmering cloak of inflections. "Put this uniform on, it's much more practical, one size fits all. Isn't that better? Now everyone knows exactly what sort of poem you are." But did they? "I'm an exploration of the soul's conflicting impulses towards salvation," called the poem enticingly to a reader, browsing nearby. "Don't be silly," replied the reader, "everyone knows you're just a minor example of a cross-gendered poem."

All anthologies are factitious but some are more factitious than others. They can provide illumination, different contexts in which to reinterpret a poem, a new lens through which to read. Too often, however, the lens distorts. Poems are wrenched from their original context and yoked by violence together, to form a sort of literary chain-gang. Alan Michael Parker and Mark Willhardt, editors of this anthology, are heinous offenders, mercilessly shackling poems to their own spurious thesis.

An anthology of cross-gendered verse does not, as you might suppose, consist of poems by, for or about transvestites, transsexuals or hermaphrodites. No glimpses of Dylis tresses backstage at Madame Jo-Jo's. No Jayne County, Barry Humphries or Ruby Venezuela.

No sign either of genderly-challenged poetic characters such as Shakespeare's Rosalind (requiring a boy actor to play a girl pretending to be a boy), Salmacis and Hermaphroditus (inspiration to many, including Ovid, Swinburne and Hughes), or Eliot's "old man with wrinkled dugs", the soothsayer Tiresias. Parker and Willhardt have made the breathtaking discovery that poets sometimes adopt personas. Women write in the voice of men, men in the voice of women. It's taken for granted that novelists invent characters, yet is considered unusual for poets to write anything that isn't confessional or autobiographical.

So we find Chaucer's Wife of Bath riding side-saddle with Fenyson's Rizzpah and Blake's Nurse. Anne Sexton writes as Jesus, Lucille Clifton as Powell, the officer charged with the beating of Rodney King. A hundred poems from Middle English and early Scots through to present-day New York, offer a succession of dramatic monologues delivered in voices of the opposite sex.

Some of my favourite poems are here: Pound's "The River Merchant's Wife", for example: "While my hair was still cut straight across my forehead/ Played I about the front gate, pulling flowers"; or Rita Dove's "Genie's Prayer under the Kitchen Sink": "The hot water squeezed/ to a trickle so she counted out the finger holes/ and dialled her least-loved son." "What remains consistent through all this diversity," the editors insist, "is the sense that each of these works should be seen within the context of gender and as an exploration of gender." Yet the book provides no biographical material. Are the poets gay or straight? At what stage in their lives was the poem written? Did the poet specialise in dramatic monologues or was the form chosen on one occasion only? In the absence of context, the anthology remains arbitrary.

It may look like a valid excuse for a poetry anthology, but look beneath the pancake make-up and false tits, and you'll find it's a travesty.

Bangkok summit: EU states duck rights issues to avoid a damaging rift with world's strongest economies

Major calls for UN to put its house in order

DONALD MACINTYRE
Bangkok

John Major made a plea for rapid reform in the United Nations yesterday at the EU-Asia economic summit, as most European leaders agreed to avoid confrontation with China and South-East-Asian economic powers over human rights.

Mr Major pressed the case for streamlining the UN and putting it on a firm financial footing following estimates that it could "run out of money in November". The Prime Minister said it would be "ludicrous" for the UN to go bust and warned it "must not be allowed to grind to a halt".

He urged Asian countries to back EU proposals for tough penalties on non-payers, to accelerate the payment of arrears and reform contributions to take account of the relative wealth of members.

Mr Major, who won strong support from Thailand for his call for UN reforms, will today call for the liberalisation of Asian markets.

The threat of a walk-out by Indonesia, led by President Suharto, if Portugal used the summit to resume attacks on

human rights abuses in East Timor was averted when the Portuguese Prime Minister, Antonio Guterres, talked informally to the Mr Suharto in the final hours of the summit. The Portuguese leader suggested a resumption of diplomatic contacts between the two countries, which elicited a non-committal response from Mr Suharto.

The Europeans' desire to avoid conflict over human rights reflects the importance attached by the EU to expanding trade relations with the fastest growing economies in the world. Mr Major has repeatedly pointed out that the countries at the summit account for more than half the world's Gross Domestic Product.

Jacques Sauter, the EU Commission President, made a plea for Asian countries to accept that the Single European Market "has greatly improved the opportunities for third countries to do business in the European Union".

In a thinly disguised appeal to Asian countries to lower barriers against EU exports, he pointed out that 40 per cent of imports of manufactured goods would be duty-free, while tariffs on other products would be cut by a third in the next decade.

Leon Brittan, the EU Trade Commissioner, has been active pressing Asian countries to open up their vast telecommunications markets, to secure a worldwide liberalisation agreement by the April deadline set by the World Trade Organisation. An aide to Sir Leon admitted they failed to draw a clear response and added: "We are into the last five weeks so it is a very urgent process."

In meetings with the Chinese government, Sir Leon pressed for the level of liberalisation that would enable China to qualify for WTO membership. Sir Leon told the Prime Minister, Li Peng, that China needed to end the monopoly of state organisations running import and export businesses, reduce tariffs and liberalise the car industry. He said if Peking took such steps the EU would back its membership of WTO.

Sir Leon urged Peking to stop restricting the free flow of economic information through overseas news agencies, saying it violated the WTO principles.

He also pressed Li Peng to accept Hong Kong's continued importance as an entrepreneurial centre, and was assured its "capitalism" would survive the handover to China.

Chinese try to calm fears over ill dissident

TERESA POOLE
Peking

Wei Jingsheng, China's most prominent pro-democracy dissident, is in good health apart from hypertension and "a fatty liver", the Chinese government announced yesterday. The unusual medical bulletin on the country's best-known political prisoner followed reports from relatives that Mr Wei, who is 46, was suffering from heart disease, and comes just weeks before China is likely to face attempted elections at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

Last November, the closed court trial of Mr Wei had to be halted for nearly half an hour when he suffered an attack of high blood pressure. The judges later sentenced him to 14 years for attempting to overthrow the government, and since January he has been kept in solitary confinement at the Nanpu

salworks about three hours' drive from Peking, occupying the same cell in which he spent the latter part of his earlier 14-year jail term. Since March 1979, Mr Wei has spent only six months out of prison.

Support is growing around the world for Mr Wei's nomination for this year's Nobel Peace Prize. Yesterday, 110 British MPs from all parties signed a Commons motion calling for his immediate release from prison and backing the Nobel nomination. He was also nominated in 1995.

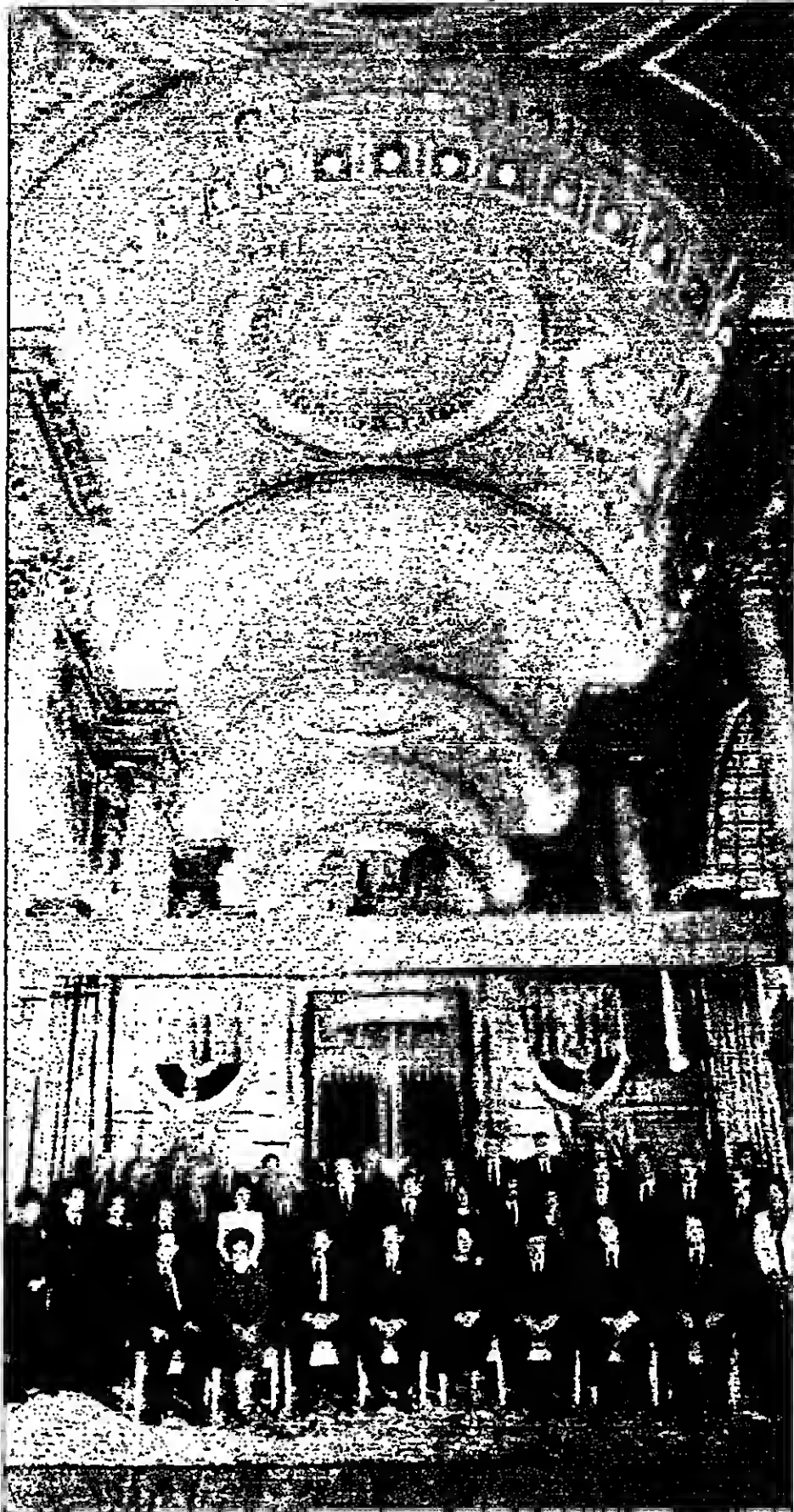
The Xinhua news agency announced yesterday that the court trial of Mr Wei had to be halted for nearly half an hour when he suffered an attack of high blood pressure. The judges later sentenced him to 14 years for attempting to overthrow the government, and since January he has been kept in solitary confinement at the Nanpu

salworks about three hours' drive from Peking, occupying the same cell in which he spent the latter part of his earlier 14-year jail term. Since March 1979, Mr Wei has spent only six months out of prison.

Support is growing around the world for Mr Wei's nomination for this year's Nobel Peace Prize. Yesterday, 110 British MPs from all parties signed a Commons motion calling for his immediate release from prison and backing the Nobel nomination. He was also nominated in 1995.

The Xinhua news agency announced yesterday that the court trial of Mr Wei had to be halted for nearly half an hour when he suffered an attack of high blood pressure. The judges later sentenced him to 14 years for attempting to overthrow the government, and since January he has been kept in solitary confinement at the Nanpu

salworks about three hours' drive from Peking, occupying the same cell in which he spent the latter part of his earlier 14-year jail term. Since March 1979, Mr Wei has spent only six months out of prison.



Glittering assembly: Heads of government gathered for an official photograph in a throne-room of the King of Thailand's palace. Photograph: Kamimasa Mayama/Reuters

Howard set for close win in Australia

ROBERT MILLIKEN
Sydney

Buoyed by opinion polls which suggest he will be Prime Minister after today's general election, John Howard, leader of the Liberal Party, embarked on a barrage of radio and television interviews yesterday to convince swinging voters in critical seats to end the 13-year era of Labor government.

As his strategists delivered the results of private party polls, which predicted that the conservative Liberals and their junior coalition partners, the National Party, would pick up more than the seven seats they need to topple Labor, Mr Howard displayed the solemn air of a leader who sensed that the elusive prize which he has pursued for 22 years in politics was finally within his grasp.

For his part, Paul Keating, fighting to win an unprecedented sixth term for Labor, ended his campaign the way he began it, as the underdog. Not for him the radio and television studios of Sydney, from where Mr Howard disseminated his message that Labor had left Australia with record foreign debt and youth unemployment.

The Prime Minister was in Tasmania yesterday, after spending the last three days flying thousands of miles from Cairns, in north Queensland, to Adelaide, Canberra and Melbourne, shoring up votes in Labor's most vulnerable seats and calling for a fresh mandate to continue economic and social reforms. (He asked Australians to compare his vision of a new, Australian republic, economically engaged in the Asia-Pacific region, with the "philosophically stranded" coalition. "Did we build a new standard, have we created a change?" he asked. "Or do we just nod gently off back to sleep again like we did in the Rip Van Winkle years?")

Mr Keating refused to concede the game was up. And, as commentators discovered three years ago, after writing him off under similar circumstances at the last election, he could be right. Australians have rejected incumbent governments only four times since the Second

World War, in 1949, 1972, 1975 and 1983.

Voters may be fed up with the Labor government, convinced it has run out of ideas and turned off by what they perceive as Mr Keating's arrogance. But the government is not swayed by scandal or smelting of decay.

Mr Howard is making his second bid to become prime minister, after failing to dislodge Labor under Bob Hawke in 1987. If Mr Howard has a vision for Australia in the next millennium, he has failed to convey it during the campaign. That explains the grudging endorsement of the coalition in the latest opinion polls yesterday.

Having started the campaign five weeks ago trailing the coalition by 11 points, Labor closed the gap in the three main polls to finish two, three and six points behind respectively. A nationwide poll published in a Brisbane newspaper yesterday gave Labor a one-point lead, the first poll to put Labor ahead. Mr Keating maintained a lead over Mr Howard as preferred prime minister in most polls.

On election eve, it was difficult to measure the impact of the "forged letters affair", a sensational development on Wednesday in which a senior Labor minister released letters apparently damaging to the coalition, but which later turned out to be fakes. The Labor Party yesterday issued a statement to federal police investigating the affair, claiming the letters originated in Liberal Party ranks. Liberals accused Labor staff of forging them.

Three of Australia's leading newspapers, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Age*, of Melbourne, and the *Australian Financial Review*, called for a coalition victory yesterday. But two influential newspapers owned by Rupert Murdoch went against the grain. The *Australian*, his national flagship, declined to endorse either side, while the *Daily Telegraph*, a mass-circulation Sydney tabloid, backed Mr Keating.

While most papers splashed headlines that predicted Mr Keating's defeat, the Murdoch papers provided upbeat coverage of the final hours of Mr Keating's campaign.

Now free calls and one second billing.

LIMITED OFFER
£9.99
INC. VAT

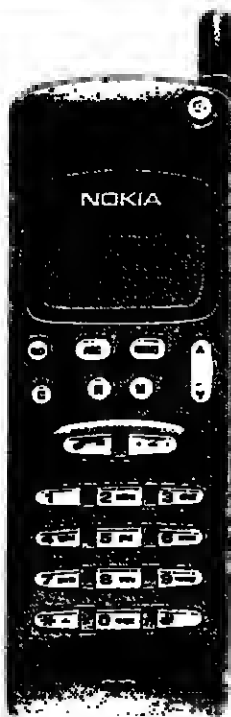
NOKIA

GSM MODEL 2010.

- ◆ 99 name/number memory
- ◆ 100 mins talk-time
- ◆ 30 hrs standby-time
- ◆ Complete with standard battery and rapid travel charger
- ◆ Weight approx 320g

FREE IN-CAR ADAPTOR/CHARGER
FREE SPARE BATTERY
FREE LEATHER CASE
TOGETHER WORTH OVER £75

GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND
Four shops covered by our 14 days
no trouble money back promise



The Nokia 2010 digital mobile phone for just £9.99 is a real bargain. And our new Vodafone PersonalWorld tariff makes it even better. Offering one-second billing for life and 50 minutes free airtime* in March, April and May. Better still we'll even include £75 worth of free accessories. Just so you've got all you need to make the most of a package that gives you the best coverage both of the UK and overseas. Simply phone us with your credit card details to receive your phone plus valuable accessories within 4 working days.

VODAFONE PERSONALWORLD

Connection	£45.25 (inc. VAT)
Monthly Rental	£17.83 (inc. VAT)
Peak Rate (day)	35.25p per min (30p + VAT)
Off Peak Rate	11.75p per min (10p + VAT)

*50 minutes free airtime per month in March, April & May

Cellphones

ORDER NOW FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

FREEPHONE 0800 000 888

CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 7PM WEEKENDS 10AM TO 5PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT READY WHEN YOU CALL
AND CREDIT CARD INFO. CREDIT CARD INFO. CREDIT CARD INFO. CREDIT CARD INFO.
Offer subject to credit and a standard activation contract for each phone with Vodafone Personal World Ltd. 125 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond-upon-Thames TW9 1LL
© 1996 Vodafone Ltd. All rights reserved. Vodafone is a registered trademark of Vodafone Ltd. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Free at Boots



Free Cosmetic Bag with every two N°7 purchases.
Cosmetic Bag contains Superlash Mascara Brown/Black, Precision Brow Definer Brown/Black and Super Gentle Eye Make-up Remover 30ml.

N°7



Someone Cares

Offer available in most Boots stores from 21st February until 19th March 1996.
Subject to availability.

Handwritten text: 150

books

All you need to know about
the books you meant to read

by Gavin
Griffiths

THE SUN ALSO RISES (1926) by Ernest Hemingway

Also known as: *Fiesta*, the title under which the novel was published in England

Plot: Jake Barnes, an American journalist, has been emasculated by a mysterious injury sustained in the First World War. In tones of savage stoicism, he narrates details of his life in the Twenties amid an idle group of sybaritic expatriates who swan about the cafés and bars of Paris. They chatter, drink too much and brawl. Jake's frustration centres on his love for Lady Brett Ashley. She returns his affection but seeks sexual gratification elsewhere. For fun and money, she decides to marry the hulkish Mike upsetting yet another suitor, Robert Cohn, who is both aggressive and wheedling by turns. This discordant quartet becomes increasingly raucous until they drift to Spain for a holiday.

Jake evades the wasteland of his personal existence by mixing with peasants and fishing for trout. He is also an aficionado of bull fighting, the unsporting ritual which comes to represent Man under pressure, pushed to the limits of concentration and courage.

Meanwhile, Brett is after Pedro the matador. But before she can nail him to the bedpost, Pedro makes a tactical (if tactless) exit. Cohn turns violent, Jake runs away to the seaside....

Bereft, Brett contacts Jake and they meet in Madrid. She believes that only Jake's little physical problem prevents their love from flowering. The novel closes with Jake's dry response: "Isn't it pretty to think so?"

Theme: An attempt to find value and meaning in

a post-war cosmopolitan world of slippery self-indulgence. Like Jake (the castrated he-man), all the characters have been damaged by the war. Even Brett was a nurse and witnessed unmentionable suffering. The natural life of the Spanish peasantry provides an example of true experience but this route to salvation is closed to the lost generation.

Style: Hemingway's plain declarative sentences are short of adverbs and polysyllabic adjectives. The spare prose has a tensile muscularity that invests the physical world with brilliant immediacy.

Chief strengths: Although the characters are squalid and inconsequential, they are viewed with sympathy. The "pointless" dialogue illuminates their inability to communicate and the obsessive triviality of their desires. Even Brett maintains a trail of dignity amid the waves of pleasure seeking.

Chief weakness: Jake's racist, sexist and political prejudices seem to be endorsed by the author; they are certainly not subject to any blasts of irony. The macho stuff with bullfighters is sprayed with excessive glamour.

What they thought of it then: Hemingway's stock has fallen because a) his view of life is unfashionable b) his biographers tend to forget the young hard-working Joycean aesthete, in lieu of the older drunken braggart.

Responsible for: Turning journalism into art and killing off the Victorian sentence. Writing is for toughies rather than wimps; the stylistic influence extends from Mickey Spillane to Anthony Powell.

A bearded prophet of the wilderness

Michael Coveney's biography of the director Mike Leigh sent John Campbell scuttling back to the video shop

The World According

to Mike Leigh

by Michael Coveney,

HarperCollins, £18

Uniqueness is the mark of an enduring artist. Mike Leigh passes the test. There is no one like him. No other playwright or film director – certainly in Britain – does what he does. He developed his own method early on and has stuck to it tenaciously for 30 years, from his first staged experiments on the Sixties fringe through television breakthrough in the Seventies with *Nuts in May* and *Abigail's Party* to international recognition as an independent, prize-winning and even hunkable film maker (*High Hopes*, *Life Is Sweet*, *Naked*) in the late Eighties. His integrity commands respect even if you question the results.

His method is often described as "improvisation". But this is misleading. It suggests something serendipitous and uncontrolled, whereas in fact all Leigh's finished work is very tightly structured. Nothing is improvised on stage or camera. The improvisation comes much earlier, when he and his actors together create the characters whose interaction will form the story of the play or film. Leigh does this individually with each actor, building a complete character through traits of personality, language, clothes and lifestyle before introducing them to one another. Thus events and dialogue are sparked by the collision of autonomous characters instead of being given to the actors in advance by an omniscient author. Other directors use improvisation to explore and deepen actors' understanding of their roles; no one else starts with it. But the point is that Leigh, starting with nothing, ends up with a precisely detailed script. His credits used to say "devised and directed by Mike Leigh"; they now read "written and directed".

Of course, he is not quite *sui generis*. His method was influenced by people like Peter Brook and Ken Campbell. Paradoxically his finished product comes closest to Pinter, whose resonant sounding of the hollow poetry of banality is honed in the study, not the



Mike Leigh with his director of photography, Roger Pratt (left), during the filming of *High Hopes*

Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

rehearsal room. Michael Coveney draws other comparisons, with Ben Jonson's comedy of "humours" and with Ayckbourn. But like him or loathe him – and you can loathe him either for creating patronising caricatures or reproducing the sheer tedium of ordinariness – Leigh is a true original. It is a pity his name does not lend itself to an adjective like "Pinteresque".

His surname, Coveney reveals, was actually changed from Lieberman. His grandparents on both sides were part of that fruitful influx of Jewish emigrants from Russia that so alarmed the Tory Government of the day that it passed the 1902 Aliens Act to keep them out. Leigh rejected his Jewish inheritance as soon as he could; but Coveney has no doubt that it helped shape him. He grew up as

part of the large, prosperous and self-confident Jewish community in Manchester, bourgeois but still outsiders. His interest in human oddity was stimulated by the extensive tribe of his bizarre relations. He disappointed his parents – both doctors – by failing to get into Manchester Grammar, Salford, however, more working-class and much less academic – suited him better. He played the lead in school productions of *Gogol* and *Shaw*, and remembers reading *Look Back in Anger* in the school library in 1956. He was 13, and had found his meter. Four years later he won a Rada scholarship.

The breadth of subsidised opportunity open to that privileged generation is brought home by Coveney's account of Leigh's first five years after leaving school.

Between 1960 and 1965 he "not only studied at Rada but worked as an assistant stage manager in repertory, acted in films and on television, took a foundation year course at Camberwell Arts School while attending evening classes at the London School of Film Technique... and spent a year in the theatre design department of the Central School of Art and Design". He created his first play while employed at the Midland Arts Centre in Birmingham; and, in 1967, he landed a job as an assistant director with the RSC.

His face – or rather his methods – did not fit and he was quickly sacked. The next few years were his most difficult, struggling for the chance to devise shows in colleges and fringe venues like the Open Space and Traverse. It was a piece

at the Open Space in 1970 – the excruciating, *Chekhovian* *Bleak Moments* – which marked his breakthrough. Albert Finney – another Salford boy – put up £17,000 to make it into a film. Then Tony Garnett, exercising an artistic freedom unimaginable today, gave him a slot to make *Hard Labour* for the BBC, and he was away.

Coveney's is not a great book: his idea of criticism is more to berate Leigh's detractors – Dennis Potter, David Edgar, Julie Burchill, Pauline Kael – than to offer much interpretation of his own. But his account of Leigh's now very substantial oeuvre – some 37 films and theatre pieces, climaxing in the grimly Dostoyevskian *Naked* (1993) – is clear and helpful. It certainly sent me back to the video shop.

Marriage: a health warning

Michael Arditti on a young gay writer's acute portrait of a heterosexual couple

The locus of Dale Peck's debut novel, *Fucking Martin*, may have lain on the titular verb, but almost as crucial was the narrator's relationship with his parents, Henry and Beatrice. And yet, by dint of the novel's sub-junctive mode, with the family dramas and sexual encounters being reviewed from different perspectives, the characters had little chance to develop and Henry and Beatrice remained particularly sketchy. Their more detailed portraits are the subject of Peck's second hook.

It is brave of a young writer best known for his gay writing to tackle a marriage. As with *Fucking Martin*, Peck's structure is experimental. In alternate – yet contemporaneous – chapters, he portrays the young Henry and Beatrice through their early marriage and the old Hank and Bea. 40

The Law of Enclosures

by Dale Peck

Chatto and Windus, £15.99

years on, when their love is as diminished as their Christian names.

Peck movingly depicts the misfit match between Beatrice, recently released from domestic drudgery and Henry under sentence of death from a brain tumour that is wrongly rumoured to be AIDS. After Henry's successful surgery, they marry, drop out of college, take routine jobs and find temporary solace in drink and adultery. The stages of their decline, while not detailed in the narrative, are made implicit in their subsequent despair and

in Bea's honest but horrific: "Oh, Hank, you should have just died." In later years, their children refuse to visit them, and their closest relationship is with another unhappy couple, Stan and Myra. After Stan dies, Hank decides that they should move north and build a house next to Myra's trailer. When the house is built, to specifications that are clearly symbolic rather than practical, Henry and Beatrice (for their names have reverted), experience a rebirth of love.

Peck displays remarkable empathy with his elderly protagonists. Myra laments that, "We're the last generation to have long meaningless marriages. Wives waiting for their husbands to die, husbands waiting for their wives to die," and the book is shot through with the spiritual souring of loveless relationships. The moment of

Henry and Beatrice's sexual renewal is handled with great grace. The trouble is that much of the writing is stuck in a state of stasis. Once the spring/autumn contrast becomes clear, as it does very quickly, the novel goes nowhere. The structure sets up a series of simple juxtapositions, while the almost exclusive concentration on Henry and Beatrice is not justified by their intrinsic interest. Peck rises skillfully to the emotional heights, but fails to make the mundane compelling.

The decision to portray both past and present events as contemporaneous is equally restricting. Henry and Beatrice are removed from history. Nothing shapes them beyond the domestic world of their marriage. Nothing wider can shape them because, as the novel is shot through with the spiritual souring of sense do not exist. Peck himself seems

aware of the problem when he makes Hank's mother reply to Bea's "This is the Nineties" with "This is not the Nineties, Bea. This is Long Island", but merely setting it in a backwater does not fill the void.

By far the finest writing comes when Peck abandons his narrative in favour of a memoir of his own parents. The precise purpose of this section in the overall scheme – whether it is to emphasise the fictional nature of the rest or to show how the rows between Peck's father and his four wives feed into the portrayal of Hank and Bea – is unclear. Nevertheless, in his description of his mother's early death and the stories he made up to cope with it, Peck writes with an intensity and commitment lacking elsewhere. Ultimately, it is the author's story, not his fiction, that captures the reader's heart.

Audiobooks



This Scythed Isle
read by Anna Massie and Paul Eddington

Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire
read Philip Madoc and Neville Jason

Now that heroes are back in force, history is high fashion. But Anna Massie, the anchorwoman on Radio 4's *This Scythed Isle* (BBC, 3hrs, £9.99), sounds too like Joyce Grenfell in a primary school; she is not helped by a script of unutterable banality. The extracts from Winston Churchill's *History of the English-Speaking People* are, predictably, better phrased, although the late Paul Eddington's reading of them is, sadly, lacklustre.

But Philip Madoc's splendid voice, full of importance, makes Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (Naxos, 8hrs, £12.49) quite mesmerising. Like driving through history in a Rolls-Royce. It is also a timely reminder of the brilliance of its legendary author. Gibbon can analyse character, tell a love story, and describe practicalities with the same matchless lucidity.

Christina Hardyment

Sometimes the best nightmares are old-fashioned ones

Post-modernism is all very well, says Geoff Dyer, but you can't beat a thrilling tale well told

It has always struck me as perverse that anyone should write a thesis about an author they love. Putting someone through the academic meat-grinder like that is an exercise in mutual attrition. Researchers are obliged to grind their authors down and to wear themselves out in the process, and only when there is nothing left but dust, only then – by a final, exquisite irony – can they be called "Doctors". "Morticians" would be a better title, for they turn literature into a vast morgue.

Patricia Duncker's challenging, provocative first novel is about an apprentice-mortician coming alive to his subject and, in the process, bringing him back from the dead. The narrator is doing graduate work on a subversive French nov-

Hallucinating Foucault

by Patricia Duncker

Serpent's Tail, £8.99

elist, Paul Michel. He's content beavering and footnoting away in the library until he begins an affair with another graduate student, a bony, myopic, DM-wearing Germanist whose thick glasses – this detail proves crucial to the novel's symbolic scheme – give her the look of an owl. Yes, not my cup of tea either, but she blows apart the narrator's ideas of dispassionate, scholarly scrutiny of the texts.

Michel, she reveals, is mad, and for the last 25 years has been

hanged up in asylums in France. Guided by his lover's intellectual passion, the narrator pledges himself to go to France, not just to find out what has happened to Michel in the intervening years but, also, if possible, to free him.

In doing so, he embraces the challenge set out by Foucault in the Preface to *The Archaeology of Knowledge*: "There are times in life when the question of knowing it one can think differently than one thinks and perceive differently than one sees is absolutely necessary if one is to go looking and reflecting at all." When he gets to the asylum where Michel is confined, the novel moves deep into Foucaultian territory, into themes of "madness, death, sexuality and crime" that attracted *le grand*

philosophe. These were Michel's themes, too, and the books of the two writers constitute – it is claimed – a trans-generic dialogue, a series of mutually explicating, explicit yet allusive love letters.

We don't come face to face with Michel until past the novel's halfway point. Up until then we follow an archival trail that yields glimpses of his writing. Technically, Duncker thereby sets herself the problem directors have when making films about great imaginary artists: producing samples of work that live up to the myth created by the fiction. Michel's prose was "ironic, disengaged, detached", and the bits and pieces we see are enough to persuade us, just, that their (alleged) author was capable of writing the books on which his

notoriety rests. Duncker succeeds in doing this partly through the contrast with the narrator's voice which, at times, suffers from the unengaging wobbles of a 23-year-old graduate student. Early on, he nearly has a "brain haemorrhage with jealousy"; in Paris the streets stink of "Gauloises and urine"; later, he smokes so much that his mouth tastes "like an ashtray".

At this stage one is willing to give Duncker the benefit of the doubt, for an even more difficult feat is still to come: that of making the real-life – ie fictive – Michel live up to expectations. The suspense feels somewhat narrator-contrived, narrator-led: to make sure we are excited about the forthcoming encounter, the nar-

rator is always telling us that he is "terrified", "seething", "shaking, his skin tingling." One is reminded of Leavis's point about Conrad over-doing the atmospherics on the way to the meeting with Kurtz. In Duncker's case, the anxiety and suspense felt by the reader is more far-reaching than the author intended: what we are also wondering is: will she pull it off?

She does. Michel crackles with electricity. The air hums around this compound and distillation of Artaud-Genet. The reader falls for his warped tenderness, his perverse saintliness. In his every move there is a latent propensity for violence, a memory and premonition of "madness or despair". That was what Marlow said of Kurtz, of course, but Michel has inhibited

a world more terrifying than that suggested by the horror of juggle metaphysics. "He looked up into the trees. Then he said, quietly, 'You cannot imagine the horror of dullness.'" *Hallucinating Foucault* is cunning, post-modern and so forth, but one ends up believing in Duncker as a novelist for the simple, old-fashioned reason that she has made us believe in her seething, wounded creation.

NEW AUTHORS

PUBLISH YOUR WORK
ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED
Fiction, Non-Fiction, Biography, Religion,
Poetry, Children's
AUTHORS WORLDWIDE INVITED
WRITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO
MINERVA PRESS
2 OLD BROMPTON RD, LONDON SW7 3BD

The Oxford Book of Spy Stories, edited by Michael Cox, OUP £17.99

A well-crafted assessment of the man who "turned grand prix racing into a contact sport". Complex and utterly competitive, Senna was a committed Christian who "needed to go as fast as possible all the time". Williams likens his approach to musical improv, quoting one jazz-man on the need to "keep into the unknown". The crash stays a mystery, but Williams latches on to a ray of racing's dark secrets.

Fax: 0171 293 2505

Replies should be addressed to the relevant box number, *The Independent*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E

SIRIUS
The Intelligent Person's Introduction Agency
The Local service operating Nationwide
for the intelligent, articulate and well educated
Join the Largest agency with personal interviews and BS 5750
24 hour Freeline 0800 072 0075 brochure line
Ask for Free CD or Tape with further info
1.800.800.8000

"1ST ENCOUNTERS"
Looking to widen your social
horizons or want an ideal partner?

How have your first encounters been to date?

Call 0171 394 5755 and make this a lasting encounter!

CALVENTINE CARDY Me neither! Man, 38 seeks lady for long term ongoing education w/anytime wise. Write: Box No. 109, New York, N.Y. 10001.

Box No. 109

EAST MILOANO'S RETIRED businessman, 70 5'6", ext. amply lit, world traveler, lacy in & loveless marriage. W/TH a lady under 60. n's ext. plenty of energy for continuing adventures. Write: Box No. 109, New York, N.Y. 10001.

Box No. 109

TRAVELLING her end anywhere abroad. His photos, looks not important. All letters will be answered.

UNIVERSITY LECTURER OGA man, young 34, caring, supportive. Enjoy sports, travel, music, food, cheerful, relaxed desire for life sharing, cuddling. Tel. Ni please. Genaro INOPS. Box No. 1121.

A TALL, SLIM, kind, witty, solvent n's, prof. male, 34, who like theatre, women's sports, diving etc. W/TH female for friendship and romance. Write: North Bay, No. 1152.

ATTACHED PROF WOMAN 42, has
ant. intelligence & libido, seeks
man with similar attributes for dis-
creet affir. Box No 1: 1134

in this section
please call

**Anne Parkin on
0171 293 2347.**

100

gardening

And hummingbirds flicker by tall, white foxgloves

Ecuador is plant-lovers heaven. By Anna Pavord

I have found myself in company with some pretty besotted plant-lovers over the last couple of years, but no fern fetishist, no orchid ogler I have ever known can match the intensity of the birdwatchers we fetched up with recently in Ecuador. Up at 5am, breakfasted by 5.30, out all day with field glasses clamped to their eyeballs, back at nightfall, a snatch of supper, then out on to the balconies of their bamboo huts to send pre-recorded owl noises into the jungle dark. "Eighty today," confided one bright birder at supper. I thought he meant the temperature, but it was the number of new species he had knocked off his list that day.

We soon discovered, though, that in this particular place, a jungle lodge down the Rio Napo, to go out with a birder was the best way of guaranteeing a good walk. They are indefatigable in the distances they will travel to bag a new bird: they are quiet and touchingly generous in their efforts to convert you to the cause.

I like birds, but as I tried to explain to one young American attorney, there isn't enough room in one life for plants, let alone anything else. He looked at me pityingly. We happened to be out with him when he saw his bird of birds, the cocha ant shrike. The female, he had told us, was described only from a skin, the male, unknown. When we came upon them, male and female were both sitting on a branch in full view, singing, prancing about, and generally drawing attention to themselves in as shameless a way as possible. The attorney was beside himself with excitement, trembling so much he nearly upset the little dugout canoe we were in at the time. "You don't realise how lucky you are," he said breathlessly. "Nobody's ever seen this before." I tried to look pleased and excited, but the cocha ant shrike is a little black job awfully like masses of other little blackish things flitting about out there. I realised then what it must be like for non-gardeners to listen to enthusiasts boring on about the joys of *Savipaga federici-augusti*. To them, it's just another little green job.

The attorney was oblivious to everything except birds. "Wonderful heliconias," I said one day, as we tightened our way over a tree-trunk bridge. "What?" he said and I pointed out the huge brilliant red and yellow flowers hanging like lanterns in the dark greenery around us. "Oh yeah!" he said. "Haven't seen them before," although we had been walking past them every day. Butterflies did penetrate his consciousness, presumably on the basis that they looked more like birds than anything else around. The kingfisher-coloured blue morphos were spectacular, flapping their wings so slowly it seemed impossible that they could stay airborne.

Birds and flowers came together most spectacularly at Cusin, a 17th-century hacienda in the northern Andes, by far the best of the three

places we stayed at in Ecuador. Wandering through the archway into the courtyard entrance, you have a curious sensation of a never-never land. Hydrangeas are blooming with orchids. By the hydrangeas is a fat banana palm. And supping from the speckled flowers of tall white foxgloves are flickering, iridescent hummingbirds.

They have been very quick on the uptake. Cusin was bought, only six years ago, by an Englishman, Nick Millhouse, who introduced many cottage garden flowers among the agaves, avocado trees and eucalyptus that he found there. Although there is probably not another foxglove within a thousand miles of Cusin, the hummingbirds flit in for their drinks there with all the easy familiarity of a hawk at Groucho's. I commented on the hummingbirds to the manager, Marcia. "Oh," she said, surprised. "Don't you have hummingbirds in England?" If only. I'd certainly trade them for the sparrows that are once again stripping the wisteria of flower buds.

Cusin, about an hour and a half's bus ride north of the airport in Quito is at San Pablo, which ranges around the eastern shore of a lake of the same name. All round are the peaks of the Andes and every day the view was different, for the clouds swirled endlessly round the mountains in a celestial version of the dance of the seven veils. Sometimes one of the mountains would let the clouds slip to reveal a vast peak, shining with snow and then quickly spin the gauzy cloud round itself again to cover itself up. It was a riveting show.

Agaves and eucalyptus were the dominant plants of the landscape here, the eucalyptus introduced and aggressive enough to see off most of the indigenous trees. But walking out from Cusin in his circular loops round the ridges and valleys, you came across masses of plants growing wild that we cultivate as garden plants. Orange-flowered *ecremocarpus* scrambled through the hedgerows like honeysuckle. Unimproved pale mauve verbenas crept along sandy banks, sakias grew everywhere. In grassland, where we might expect dandelions, there were tickseed (*coropsis*) and Spanish daisy.

Fields of maize grew on even the most precipitous slopes, carefully ridged and furrowed to husband the water. When the sweetcorn was well established, the farmers sowed runner beans alongside them, so that the beans could use the sweetcorn as supports. I have combined peas and broad beans in this way, which works well as long as you choose a tall-growing cultivar of broad bean. This summer I am going to try the Ecuadorian way with runners.

Everywhere you noticed cultivation techniques that reflected a care for water as a resource. We are gradually understanding about the importance of mulching here, but we don't do very much by way of ridging and furrowing



Ecuadorian jungle (above); and on the flower-strewn hacienda at Cusin. Photos: Tony Morrison/Anna Pavord

between crops or building little earth stockades round plants of tomato or squash or courgette. We buy sprinkler systems instead and spray extensively filtered drinking water all over the garden. Back to the mattock, the tool that was most often in evidence in Ecuador. It's a bit like a spade, mounted at right angles to a long handle. You can chop up clods of earth with it and use it to draw soil up around plants. I inherited a whole family of them from a great uncle, but have never used them. Having seen how deftly Ecuadorians handle them, I feel they ought to be brought back into commission.

Cut flowers seem to be the boom business at the moment. The *hacienda* we stayed in to the south of Quito was completely hemmed in by acres and acres of polythene tunnel, all growing roses. While sulphur cones burnt away inside the shelters, young women, without face masks or any other protection, were picking the unreal perfect blooms, each on a three foot stem. It put me

off roses as a cut flower in a big way.

As many birders go to Ecuador for the cocha ant shrike or the happy eagle, so many plants-people go there for the orchids. Late summer is the best time for these, but even so, in winter we saw four or five different kinds. In the jungle were epidendrums and a dear little orchid with a monkey face. In the mountains behind Cusin, growing on a rock face where they were drenched by the spray from a 100ft waterfall, were showers of wonderful red-flowered orchids. What were they? I haven't the faintest idea.

When I inquired of one of the birdwatchers in the jungle the name of a brown thing that flashed through my field glasses, he replied grandly, "I don't do flycatchers." So I'll take a leaf from his book and say equally firmly, "I don't do orchids."

The Hacienda Cusin is at San Pablo, Imbabura, Ecuador (06 918013; fax 06 918003).



WEEKEND WORK

What should be done about shrubs damaged by the snow falls of February? Evergreens such as *choisya* and the low-growing *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* repens are the worst hit in my garden. Other friends have been mourning the loss of lilacs and hebes. Where branches are attached only by the skin of the bark, there is no point in delaying. Cut them, finish off their misery and get rid of them. Where branches are split, as with my *choisya* and *ceanothus*, I shall leave them both until they have flowered before undertaking major surgery.

As for lilac, you could take the chance to rejuvenate the bush by cutting the whole thing down to about two

feet, forcing it to throw new shoots. In the end, this is likely to produce a better-shaped, more free-flowering bush than you would get by simply cutting out the damaged branches. Depending on the extent of the damage, I would be tempted to cut a hebe hard back, too, but not yet. There may be more harsh weather to come. Wait until April, when it can be persuaded to shoot again from the base.

Wintersweet (*Chimonanthus praecox*) can be pruned now, too. Take out spindly stems entirely, cutting them off at the base and shorten the strong growing stems by about a quarter. Tough pruning will make the

shrub produce new strong stems which will flower more vigorously than weak growth. You need to feed wintersweet, though, to get the best results. A thick layer of muck this spring or next autumn should do the trick.

Repeat house plants if you think they need it. They needn't necessarily go into a larger pot. Tease old compost away from the roots and set the plant at the same depth in fresh compost in a clean pot. Water it thoroughly, but do not drown it. The nutrients available in the fresh compost will mean that the plant will need no extra feeding for the next six weeks.

Why snails love city gardens best

By Diana Ross

The common garden snail, *Helix aspersa*, was extinguished in the British Isles by the Ice Age. The English Channel opened up and cut us off from the Continent before it had time to make its way back again. But then came the Romans, bringing with them their own supply for culinary purposes. Unfortunately, they did not consume them all. Some escaped, naturalised and thrived. And they thrive best in close proximity to humans. For a snail four things are essential: moisture, food, shelter and alkaline soil for the calcium to make their shells. A town garden provides these necessities better than anywhere — a food supply in easy reach of the shelter of walls and paving and ideal atmospheric conditions: a small garden is so easy to water. The irony is that the people who provide this ideal environment are the very same who suffer most from the snails' presence. They even share the same taste in plants: broad-leaved herbaceous perennials.

Any city gardener visiting a country garden cannot fail to notice the relatively pristine condition of plants. There is a better range of predators, but the size and viscosity of a mature garden snail give it strong protection. Then again, in the country it is often too far for the snails to trudge from their shelter to the borders and back before daybreak. And country gardeners are less likely to have an irrigation system.

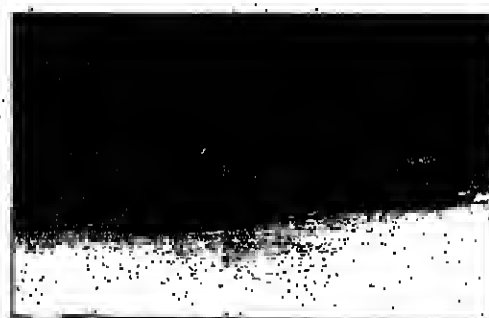
If slug pellets are not an option, whether for fear of dis-

approbation or concern for the environment, what can the beleaguered city gardener do? There are the recognised "friendly" methods: grapefruit halves; beer; expensive packs of aluminium sulphate; eggshells, grit or ashes; greasing the rims of plant pots. But in the end the battle, as the summer progresses, is lost, and the hosta leaves are reduced to skeletons, the clematis to Brussels lace.

The EC has been looking into the use of a suitable nematode as a means of controlling slugs in farming. But it turns out this nematode only fancies a certain type of slug and 1,000 are required to deal with one slug. The cost is therefore prohibitive.

Daily vigilance and knowledge of their habitat is probably more useful in dealing with the city snail. Then a decision can be taken on how best to despatch them. Lobbing the catch over the wall next door is totally ineffectual: snails are territorial and can travel up to 40 metres a night, by the following morning they will be back. Added to which, the mucus trail grown snails leave acts as an inhibitor to the younger generation. Kill an adult and the next size down start eating themselves silly in the race to take over the vacant patch.

Which they do. Hermaphroditic, every mature garden snail reproduces itself approximately 200 times a season. They can live for eight years once mature. Happily, snails are not vigilant parents and leave the offspring to fend for themselves. How-



City snails: should you drown them, bury them, tread on them or eat them?

ever, one gardener in Hampstead counted her haul last year — 3,000. If each of those 3,000 had lived to produce its 200 offspring, and if only five per cent of those had reached maturity, by the end of 1998 they would number six million. And if she found 3,000 how many did she miss?

How do you despatch 3,000 snails humanely? Appealing creatures, they actually become friendly in captivity. To drown them is heartbreaking — they will keep climbing back out of the barrel, eyes on stalks, bodies straining with the effort. Throwing them out on to the road to take their chance? Christian to the lions. The poor things inch their way painfully over the gritty tarmac, unable to take evasive action when the cars bear down. Squashing them underfoot is quick and not dissimilar to being hurled about by thrushes. For those with compost heaps, dropping them first into boiling water avoids the rotten fish combined with uric acid smell their decomposition produces. For those without, leaving them on the path for passing wildlife leads to infestations of bluebottles.

One gardener took to burying her dead hut to bury up to 40 snails a day is, so to speak, quite an undertaking.

Two possible final solutions came from the snail farmer who revealed the friendliness of their nature. His first option he called "gardeners' revenge", which is to say, eat them. But first they must be purged. Two days' starvation in a damp atmosphere in a covered bucket followed by three of feeding (flour or Weetabix) and a further two days' abstinence. Store alive in a warm box until required. Finally, blanch in boiling water and cook in garlic butter.

Should the above solution not appeal, mash up packets of Weetabix and lay trails of the cereal on damp evenings along paths and hard surfaces six inches or so from the flowerbeds. Between 11pm and 1am return with torch, dustpan and brush and sweep everything up again: slugs and snails alike will be heads down in the cereal. Place in covered pail and when convenient release on wasteland at least 40 metres from your garden. Repeat regularly throughout the season.

gardening

PROBABLY THE ONLY FEATURE YOU WON'T USE IS THE 5-YEAR WARRANTY.



Some Honda lawnmowers feature electric starting. Some are self-propelled. And some have handlebars that adjust to suit the operator's height.

But almost all our lawnmowers have a 5-year warranty* - from the new 17" model to our lawnmowers.

It may sound generous. Until you remember that all our lawnmowers have Honda engines. So they share the same reliability that made our cars world famous.

Honda lawnmower prices start from as little as £139 inc VAT.

So, freephone 0800 378096 or clip the coupon for further details. And peace of mind that will last into the next century.

HONDA
LAWNMOWERS
Built without compromise

PENSTEMON

We are specialist growers of these beautiful cottage garden perennials. Their graceful, tubular bell shaped flowers will bloom from June - November. We are offering 10 individually named plants in the widest choice of colors for £11.95 inc. postage. Delivery early spring.

Please order your plants to: Penstemon Plant Sales, Penstemon, Penstemon, Warrington, Warrington, Warrington. Tel: 01256 734672

KEEPPERS NURSERY

Fruit tree specialists with over 500 old and modern apple, pear, plum and cherry varieties in stock. Stock list free but \$4.95 please at: GALLARTS COURT, EAST FARLEIGH, SAUNDSTONE ME15 0LE. Tel/Fax 01822 728465

To advertise in this section please call 0171 293 2344.

دكان من الأكل

There's more to the National Trust than country piles, says the new head man. There's 20 Forth Road, for a start

By Patricia Cleveland-Peck

"I am at the tiller for the time being, but I'm just one of many," was the modest comment of Martin Drury, who took over as director general of the National Trust at the beginning of the year. "The challenge is to keep the thing on course." However, there are already indications that he will steer this venerable old craft towards her second century with some panache.

It was he who took the innovative step of acquiring the first house connected with a living person – and a pop singer at that, rather than a Duke or retired statesman. Hearing that 20 Forth Road, Liverpool – the council house where Paul McCartney spent his teenage years – was for sale, Drury felt it was something the Trust should at least consider. "I was taken by several things," he told me. "Firstly it was really a rather good building from the last breath of a working-class housing movement – the garden suburb movement – which does great credit to this country." More importantly, he saw it as "an immediate link with the creation of music which touched millions".

This link is documented by a series of photographs taken in the house by Paul's brother Mike McCartney, showing, for example, Paul and John on the sofa with their guitars with Paul's maths exercise book open, revealing the words "I will hold your hand".

Reaction from the membership has been mixed: broadly those from the North approve, while those from the South indicate some degree of puzzlement. Drury is unrepentant: "Any organisation can so easily get turgid and backward looking. We are preoccupied with the past quite a lot, so it is good to be edging forward."

In fact, Drury regrets that the public perception of the National Trust is so closely-linked to houses, although he served for 11 years as Historic Buildings Secretary and is an expert on antique furnishings. "Our country houses are very important and I'm very proud of them, but they do fuel the false impression that the Trust is very rich," he says. "In fact most of the big country houses run at a loss and the Trust's financial position is precarious. It needs more members."

There is another reason why the stately home perception displeases Drury: "It devalues the rest of our work, which is just as remarkable. We own 506,000 acres of countryside and through Enterprise Neptune, which is the single most important campaign the Trust has undertaken, we have protected 502 miles of coastline." Once land is acquired, the Trust has a unique power to declare it inalienable,

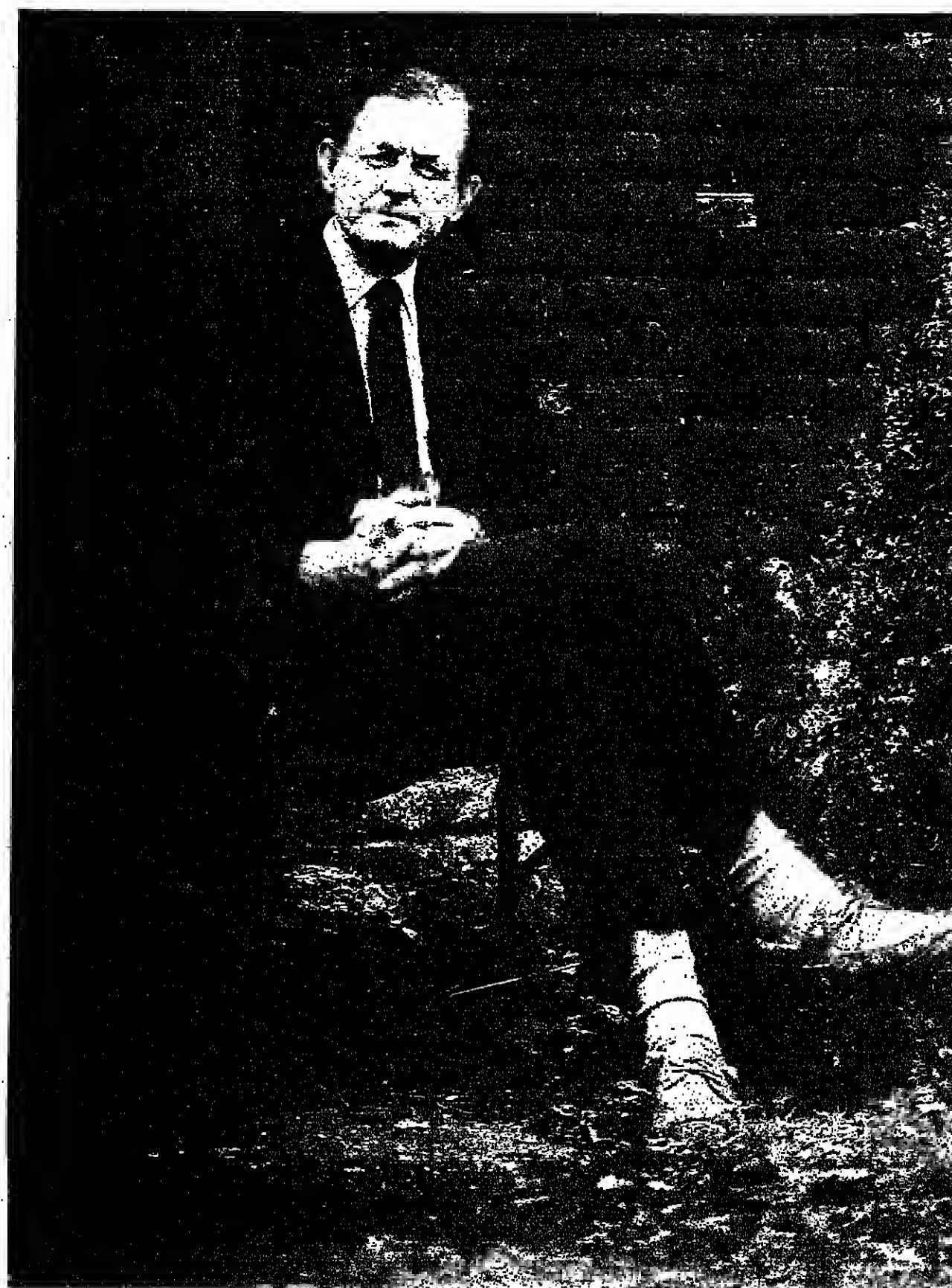
which means it cannot be sold, mortgaged or compulsorily purchased without recourse to Parliament.

In the light of present conflicts over road proposals, I asked Mr Drury about relations between the Trust and the Department of Transport (DoT). "In most cases the DoT tries to avoid our inalienable land," he said, "but when threatened we are obliged by statute to defend it – and we do. That is the situation at Hindhead. The proposal to take the A3 by-pass on concrete stilts across the Devil's Punchbowl was rejected as unthinkable. The Trust insists that the road is run through a tunnel, an option it also wants to see adopted at the even more sensitive World Heritage site of Stonehenge. At Golden Cap in Dorset, where the plan was to run the A35 through some of the Trust's loveliest coastal land, the DoT listened to the Trust's arguments and reduced its proposal from a double to a single carriageway. This is still considered unacceptable and the Trust opposes it as publicly as possible."

"We are not against the car," Drury added, "but the present rate at which life is dominated by the car cannot be sustained. At the last AGM it was suggested that the number of visitors arriving by car should be reduced from 90 per cent to 60 per cent. A tall order, but a move in the right direction." When Prior Park near Bath opens this season, all visitors will have to walk or come by public transport – there are no parking facilities. The Trust has initiated other strategies; work on 12 cycle tracks to run from urban centres to Trust properties; cheaper combined public transport and entry tickets for some properties and the continuing publication of listing available public transport in the handbook to enable those who are carless to reach the properties – in theory at least.

"I want the National Trust to be appreciated by a wider sector of the population," said Drury, who is fully aware of the middle-class, middle-England image of Trust members. He pointed to three schemes – "Linking People with Places" – operating in Plymouth, Birmingham and Newcastle, which reach out to connect people from depressed inner city areas with the amenities that nearby Trust properties can offer them. In Newcastle the project has apparently been so successful that older people and single mothers have formed their own groups to organise walks, field trips and weekends.

This seems very much more in the spirit of Octavia Hill, the Trust founder whose aim was to create "outdoor sitting-rooms for the poor", rather than the



stereotypical huntin' shootin' and fishin' stately home incumbent whose image the words "National Trust" conjure up for so many.

Hunting, of course, has caused the Trust some headaches over the years. What are the new director general's views on it?

"Our policy is to allow hunting – which is perfectly legal after all – where it has traditionally taken place and not to allow it where it would damage habitats or if the land has been given to us with a no-hunting condition." He is aware of the intense pas-

stry of information by means of a series of high technology "Gateways" at 30 properties. If it comes off (support of £11.35 million has been sought from the Millennium Commission), virtual reality, CD-ROMS, fly-by-wire models and interactive hands-on displays will be used. This will help to deepen the appeal of the properties and improve visitor enjoyment, while an even larger audience will be tapped both here and abroad through CD-ROM and the Internet.

Up-to-the-minute stuff indeed for the staid old National

Trust, demonstrating Mr Drury's belief that it is essential to move with the times. "I want to spread the social base of the membership and also get over the fact that the Trust is a charity in need, not an opulent great ship sailing confidently towards the future. I want to improve the schools education programme: children of all races are the British people of the future, and it is their National Trust." He is also keenly aware that the Trust has to earn public affection by giving people what they want.

Which brings us back to the Beatles House.

COUNTRY PURSUITS



A day in the life of Ray Dobbins, water bailiff on the Wye

"I love my job. I've lived on the Wye all my life – I was born in Monmouth, but moved to Rhayader when I was two. It's not regular work: it all depends on the fish. At spawning – autumn – we're out every night around here. We might start at six and not get back until seven the next morning. Often we stake out a ford, then at least you know you're protecting something, even if no poachers come along. Otherwise, we walk up a brook – that's the only way to find out if there's anything going on. Although I have two reserve bailiffs – part-timers who help out as and when needed – we've got a huge area to cover: about 150 miles of river in all."

"From February to October we're looking for netters near Monmouth – outside our patch. That can mean a long night (I've done 18 hours on the trot there), especially when we've caught someone and they have to be charged."

"We also do shifts around Leominster, usually at weekends. That means starting at 2.30pm to catch night fishermen using worms to catch trout. It's illegal and I don't know why they do it – there's no money in it – they're poachers at heart."

"There's been a huge shift in poaching. When I began in 1979 everyone was at it and it got a bit nasty. Once I found a dozen salmon heads on my car bonnet and another time it was sprayed with paint. My two reserves were very badly beaten up and a look-out was shot at till he quit."

"Then the magistrates fined someone £946 in Rhayader court and for two years we never saw a light on the river. Today we're left with a handful of middle-aged poachers, but there's none of the young lads coming in. Now we probably only catch a couple of local guys each winter. Last year we surprised two poachers and one decided to hide in the river. Luckily he was in shallow water and we found him before he got too cold. Near Monmouth poachers have been drowned netting. That guy was fined about £250."

"Although the enforcement is the most important part of the job, I prefer monitoring. In early spring we plant boxes in the river with 100 fertile salmon eggs in each. We lift them about March to see what progress they've made and carry on checking through the summer."

"When it gets a bit warmer we go electro-fishing. We stretch two nets across the river about 30 metres apart and walk slowly between them with an electrode. This stuns the fish, which we measure and weigh. If any look out of condition, we take scale samples for analysis."

"At the moment we're three years into a project to put up nest boxes for barn owls and we're helping the fishery owners to remove silt from spawning beds that aren't doing so well. It seems to be working, too – last year was the best spawning on the Wye since 1988, but that might just be the hot weather."

"One of the best things about the scientific work is being out on the river during the day and I've been lucky enough to have seen four or five otters during daytime over the past couple of years. They may take the occasional salmon, but they're beautiful creatures."

Daniel Butler

A little local trouble

The ParaSearch Investigation Research Unit may be called in to investigate strange goings on in a small Shropshire town. A month ago two workmen appeared from the mist as they made Wem's old town hall safe after it was gutted by fire. One theory is that the ghost is that of teenage maid Jane Churn, who accidentally caused a fire in 1677. Mrs Pauline Dee, a town councillor, said it could be the ghost of a man who helped build the town hall in 1911 and who later killed himself after a row with his father.

Members of the public in North Devon are being asked to help identify tanker drivers who are dumping untreated sewage in country lanes between Bideford and Torrington. The illegal dumping of septic tank waste was first reported towards the end of last year, and although the operators have been spotted, officials at Devon County Council's waste regulation department need registration numbers. Kevin Davies, of the department, said: "This waste contains pathogenic organisms, including those responsible for causing salmonella and hepatitis. It also poses an environmental threat to wildlife."

'When I lobbed logs into my trailer, she went berserk'

When working with a chain saw, it is as well to concentrate. Two occasions on which I let my mind wander stand out in my memory with disconcerting clarity. On one, I felled a witch elm on to my own trailer, and almost on to my wife; on the other, I let the chain touch the inside of my knee – which meant immediate evacuation to hospital.

I was therefore keeping my wits about me the other afternoon as I cut into a pile of tree-tops that a farmer had dragged out into a field. Suddenly, I became aware that something had passed close behind me at high speed. Taking my finger off the throttle trigger, I looked round. There was Cindy, the sheepdog from the farm, coming in fast at an angle on another run.

I was glad to be wearing boots with high, padded ankles. On her regular beat, outside the farmyard, Cindy makes it her duty to give the bum's rush to any vehicle passing along the lane. From her favourite ambush-point at one corner of the barn, she hurtles out, barking furiously, and races beside the car, snapping at its wheels.



DUFF HART-DAVIS

Visitors on foot are no more welcome. Even when I enter into friendly conversation with her owner, she gives off menacing growls. Although wagging her tail, she looks as though she may sink her teeth into me at any moment. When riding in his pick-up truck, she is aggression personified.

What, then, were her motives in making these high-speed passes in the field? Rather than risk having jaws close on my Achilles tendon, I stopped the saw, took off my helmet and made overtures.

Off her own territory, Cindy was a different animal. She wagged her tail, licked my hand, allowed me to chuck her under the chin, frisked about and generally made herself agreeable. Yet

when I began to lob logs into my trailer, she went berserk, racing in circles, leaping high into the air, and uttering strangled howls as each missile fell out of her reach. Clearly, she wanted action, and in particular sticks thrown for her to chase.

I chose a thin piece of wood and flung it. She went after it like smoke, pounced, gnashed, tossed it into the air and abandoned it – as if it was a rat and she was saying, "There you are, that's how I kill 'em." A couple more sticks received similar treatment. Immediately after she had dealt with each one, she came tearing back for the next.

But then, as a longer branch landed on the grass, she did not shake it or throw it about. Instead, she seized it and bore it off in her mouth, galloping the whole way home. Two, three, four hundred yards up the field she went, until she squeezed under the gate and disappeared towards the farmyard. Ten minutes later she came back – and this time there was no fooling about. The first stick I threw found favour: she picked it up and sprinted for base. "Good

God!" I thought. "Have they trained her to bring home firewood?"

Inquiries revealed that they had done no such thing: the sticks had not reached the farm. They must have gone into some secret cache. I was left reflecting on how difficult it is to discern animals' motives, and how dangerous it can be to take good temper for granted.

Few creatures can have been more deceptive than our champion ram. Agamemnon – that arch destroyer of fence-posts. It is true that his final preparation for a charge – three steps backwards and one to the side, like a rugby player lining up for a place-kick – always gave him away at the last moment; but even when he was harbouring the most dastardly thoughts, the expression on his face never changed, and only someone who knew him well could divine that if he started to lick his lips or wag his tail, it was time to watch out.

So with Cindy. We may have become buddies in the field, but I still believe that if I took any liberties on her home ground, she would bite me to the bone.

THE INDEPENDENT READERS' OFFER

15 CASCADING BEGONIAS

For £8.95 inc. P&P.

Our mixture of 8 colours of this marvellous trailing Begonia will produce an avalanche of colour cascading from your hanging baskets or patio containers.

These Ghent grown Begonias are simple to grow and will make your summer display the envy of your neighbours.

HOW TO ORDER
Ring 0161 431 6431
CREDIT CARD HOTLINE (24 hours service)

IMPORTANT:
Quote "ING 184" when ordering.
OR Complete the coupon quoting your Access/Visa number or send with crossed cheque/postal orders. NO CASH PLEASE.

To: The Independent Begonia Office,
PO Box 64, South West District Office,
Manchester M16 9HT.

We deliver to addresses in the UK only.
Please allow 28 days for delivery.
Return within 7 days for refund if not completely satisfied. Offer is subject to availability.



SEND TO: The Independent Begonia Office,
PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester M16 9HT.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Please send me _____ pack(s) of 15 Cascading Begonias @ £8.95 per pack.

I enclose my cheque/PO No. _____ value £ _____

crossed & made payable to Newspaper Publishing ING 184

(Name & address on back please.)

Or debit my ACCESS/VISA account by the amount of £ _____

Signed: _____ Enquiry Date: _____

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive future offers from Newspaper Publishing or from companies approved by Newspaper Publishing PLC.

Registered in England No. 1902667

0571 0711549

By Martin Scudamore

Holidays in Scilly leave unforgettable memories. The boat setting off from St Mary's in a strange morning mist over an absolutely still sea, with the sun only beginning to break through as we reached Tresco, and promising a scorching day; a morning spent looking at the impressive ruins of

tic and tropical plants and trees in the
the Gardens, followed by a visit to Val-
la, the resting place for dozens of wooden
treasure chests and stern plates from wrecked
ships; a fish-and-chip supper in Hugh Town,
then embarking in the little boats again to
row the gigs. This evening was a "swap
meet" where each crew had to exchange their
dollar gig with the crew from one of the
other islands. After a rousing finish, in
the Men-a-Vaur crew won by a length
of ten seconds. We strolled up to Buzza Hill
to watch the sun dipping down into the
Atlantic over the twin hills of Samson.
The mystery is not why why people return
after a year, but why they ever go back
at all.



Fax: 0171 293 2505

Figure 1

0990 143 537
BROCHURE

**We Work.
You Save.**

UP TO
£99*

Euro Sites

*Savings based on standard rates for new customers. Excludes VAT and delivery charges. See website for details.

**SELF-DRIVE
CAMPING HOLIDAY
IN EUROPE.**

See how much
you can now save in
our latest summer
'96 brochure.

EuroSites

96

[illegible]

French Holidays
please see page 18.

Look, no sticks

If, as they say, traditional skiing is a dying industry, snow boarding is a booming one. After a trip to Zell am See, Charlie English could see why

If you took the recent spate of snowboarding-related advertising to heart, you might think the boarder's world was inhabited solely by danger-loving types. People who jump out of aeroplanes in armchairs, or who like to throw themselves from tall buildings with only a swatch of state-of-the-art fabric to stop them hitting the ground. The sort who, according to the ads, like to drink Pepsi Max or fly through Gatwick Airport. There are a number of snowboarders who are like that. The self-styled hard core who do it, as an editorial in the snowboarding magazine *On Board* says, because "the days of the Wild West are long gone". This is why, it says with some justification, "sports like surfing, snowboarding and skateboarding graduate from activities to lifestyles".

But there is another, probably much larger, group of snowboarders who are riding on the coat-tails of extreme-sport chic without suffering the potential pitfalls (serious injury, repeated use of the word "man"). This is the soft periphery, where I like to think I belong. We can talk about it a lot, but are only infrequently called to leave the sofa.

The six of us, most of whom had skied before but only one of whom — me — had snowboarded, booked up at the Austrian resort of Zell am See; we'd bought our time-slot in the glamour of the winter sports scene. This is where it's done! I thought, stepping from the bus. There are people here who do it for six months a year! And, after hiring a battered old board that had cost more per day than I'd pay to buy it in a second-hand shop back home, and after getting into the gondola for the first journey to the top of the mountain, the cold excitement set in.

On the first morning, thinks I, I would explain to my skiing comrades how the thing is done. We would take gondolas and chairlifts to the flat top of a 2,000m peak; the beginners would be mused into a state of snowboarding toddlerdom



Advanced skiers may look good, but snowboarders look better. Photos: Skishoot

and it would be downhill from there. Except that Zell am See's chairlifts are exclusively ski-on, ski-off affairs that assume a degree of snowboarding competence. So we started at the top of the first gondola, and the top of the black ("difficult") run. There, only Phil was committed to a snowboard. "The plan is," I said to him, "that you lock your boots to the board here [tightens up bindings] and then you stand up." He wobbled upright. "Then you set off down there [falls. Gets up]. Turning," I shouted after him,

"is just a question of pushing the back round!"

A couple of painful hours later Phil had determined that he needed professional help, and bought two hours with Marco, a pony-tailed Austrian instructor. "He told me, 'Your shoulders are your steering wheel,'" said Phil, "and he stands there with his arms spread out, twisting from the waist." It was good advice: Phil could almost immediately turn in both directions — the hardest part. It gets a lot easier when you don't have to go down

a run on your hands and knees.

They say skiing is a dying industry; snowboarding, on the other hand, is booming. It isn't difficult to see why. Advanced skiers, weaving down a piste with skis and knees in perfect sympathy, look great, but an advanced snowboarder, swaying one way then the other, hands inches above the snow, looks much better. When last I went snowboarding, in Tignes a few years ago, there were only five or six snowboarders out each day. This time, every fourth person on the slopes was on a snowboard, and 75 per cent of those were teenage Europeans in the most stylish snowboard wear.

The gear (called Bastard, Pervit, Nuts) draws styles from pop music: it can be as baggy as a New York rapper's, or tight-fitting and collarless like a Manchester spiv's. Ski-wear looks old by comparison. It's unsurprising that boarders get up a lot of people's noses, and skiers' noses in particular. Snowboarders don't go out of their way to make skiing friends. Nick, skiing down a steep-walled gunbarrel of a run, had the stuffing knocked out of him by a team on a board called Bitch.

"Bitch" was sitting up on the sidewall, then without looking pushed himself upright, flipped the board round and shot across the front of Nick's skis, knocking him over, boots snapping out of his bindings, hat flying, sunglasses smashing on his face. The boarder, further down, looked back, then pushed on. "What happened?" asked a skier who stopped to help. But Nick later became a convert. "They're certainly the coolest people on the mountain," he said. "And the packs of kids — they're like packs of wolves. They sit there on the side of the slopes watching, then suddenly all get up and set off together. I loved it." Phil said: "I'd definitely do it again." John said: "I wish I'd learnt when I was younger, when falling down wasn't so hard." Richard, sadly, wasn't there. He was in hospital because he'd broken his wrist on the last day.



All you need to know about snowboarding

Equipment

The chief innovation for winter '96-'97 is the "strap-in" binding. With this system, the rider clips into his/her bindings by simply stepping on to them in the same manner as with ski bindings. The difference is that the bindings are hidden under the boots and the boots are the usual soft snowboard boots modified and stiffened. You therefore have the freedom of a normal snowboard boot and binding set up with the convenience of a ski binding. Many manufacturers have developed their own versions of the system and prices will probably drop, so 1997 looks set to be the year of the strap-in. The "360-degree cap" is the name of a new board-manufacturing technique. Traditional construction relies on the sides of the board being formed by a strip of plastic. Cap construction dispenses with this strip and allows the sides to be formed from the fibreglass layers, resulting in a lighter, stronger board. It also looks superb. The major manufacturers all have boards that use this technology in next winter's ranges.

Resorts

Places with a variety of terrain will score highly with snowboarders, as will resorts that get more than their fair share of powder snow or have vast expanses of off-piste. The more advanced boarder will be impressed by purpose-built obstacles and jumps. Bulgaria is a recommended choice for snowboarders. It's cheap and the terrain is awesome. Aoraz and Les Arcs in France have always been popular with snowboarders. In Austria, try Axamer Lizum just outside Innsbruck and in Italy, Madonna di Campiglio. Andorra has Pas de la Casa which is blessed with very reliable snow. In the US, try Whistler, Lake Louise or the Arapahoe Basin.

Al Fleming is a freelance writer and runs the Snowboard Klinik.

Snow's up by Chris Gill

Duty free in Italy

Italian ski resorts are currently good value, thanks to the weak lira. But one stands out — in principle, at least — as being better value than the rest: Livigno, a large village isolated in a high, remote valley close to the Swiss border.

Livigno is a duty-free enclave. What you might expect the resort's status to mean is that prices would generally be lower than in other Italian resorts. In practice, the difference in the everyday cost of living is slight: when I travelled from Livigno to the nearby resort of Bormio last winter, lunch on the mountain and an après-ski beer seemed to cost much the same in both.

Perhaps a serious spirits drinker would reach a different conclusion. But the real difference between Livigno and neighbours like Bormio is the duty-free resort's heavyweight shopping opportunities. The long main street and its side-shoots are flanked by smart clothes shops, camera and video shops, perfume shops and, of course, ski shops. And, yes, the prices are temptingly low.

When I was there, one of my fashion-conscious companions filled a small suitcase with new shirts, trousers and sweaters. Whether they actually represented quite the savings he perceived, we'll never know. (Stroll down the main street of any Italian resort these days and you're likely to be impressed by at least some of the prices.)

But the same companion also studied ski equipment, and calculated handsome savings on a set of Salomon skis and bindings; sadly, the skis he wanted were sold out (this was March, after all). I was sorely tempted by a Nikon compact camera on sale for perhaps £50 less than in Britain. But in the end I, too, kept my plastic dry.

and contented myself with a tankful of duty-free petrol.

I was deterred partly by nagging doubts about the liability to pay duty and tax on goodies bought in Livigno when you take them elsewhere. My subsequent conversations with HM Customs and Excise have not been exactly conclusive, but it does seem that goods bought in Livigno are treated just like goods bought in a duty-free shop at an airport or on a Channel ferry: you're allowed to import a few quid's worth, but you soon start to pay the appropriate tax and duty.

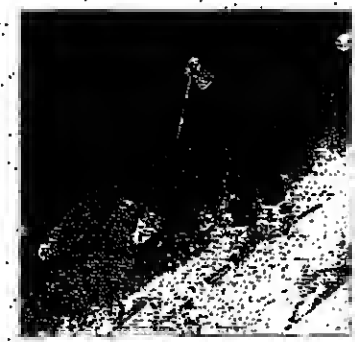
The situation is slightly complicated by the need to import your goodies into "mainland" Italy or Switzerland before bringing them home. In principle, it is possible to defer the payment of duty until you return home. Whether in practice you can count on the average Italian or Swiss customs person to go along with this is doubtful.

But I dare say that most people who buy a camera, a bag of clothes or a pair of skis in Livigno have no intention of paying any duty. Naturally, I couldn't possibly encourage such behaviour. But if that's your plan you may wish to know that I found the Italian border guards more vigilant than the Swiss.

Perhaps Swiss duty-evaders look first to their own duty-free enclave of Sarnau, on the Austrian border (and sharing a ski area with Ischgl). They thereby save the cost of changing francs into lire — but, of course, they also lose the advantage of low Italian prices. For bargain-hunting British skiers, a better alternative is Andorra, in the Pyrenees, where the savings on duty do seem to translate into lower bar prices as well as lower shop prices.

Snow report

It has been a great week in the Alps, at least for people skiing at high altitude. In the wake of the worthwhile snowfalls of the previous week, many resorts have seen some sunny days and clear, crisp nights. Not surprisingly, resort-level runs have suffered, especially in low or south-facing resorts — but at least those runs have remained skiable, even where they have become heavy, icy or patchy. And the skiing on higher slopes, where temperatures have remained lower, has been excellent. The snowfalls of ten days ago favoured the western Alps (France and western Italy) rather



than the east (Austria and the Dolomites), but right now, wherever in the Alps you look, altitude is the key to the best conditions. Here in Verbier, the streets are clear of snow but there's a foot of snow on the

chalet roofs, and the mountain is in excellent shape. As I write on Friday morning, the weather is changing, with lower temperatures and more cloud, at least in Switzerland, with a light snowfall just beginning. Meanwhile, the Pyrenees are still offering superb skiing, and the eastern European resorts are fully open even if the lower runs are getting a bit thin. Conditions in the USA and Canada are excellent, with fresh snow in the last few days right across the western US — there are reports of spectacular depths of snow in Utah (Park City and Snowbird, for example), in particular.

THE INDEPENDENT TRAVEL OFFER AMSTERDAM travelling by ORIENT-EXPRESS

The first ever journey to Amsterdam by the world famous Venice Simplon Orient-Express will take place in early May and we have managed to obtain places on this historic journey of a lifetime especially for Independent readers.

DEPART MAY 9th late morning from London Victoria aboard this magnificent train in beautifully restored Pullman carriages. A memorable lunch with wine will be served as well as champagne aperitifs.

After crossing the channel by SeaCat check into your elegant cabin and lose yourself in the luxury of the train enroute to Amsterdam. In the evening maybe enjoy a cocktail in the Bar, followed by a superb dinner in the Restaurant Car (Drinks not included) before retiring to your cabin.

Early morning arrival in Amsterdam on the 10th of May when you will be transferred to your selected hotel in the heart of the city. Return to London Heathrow by scheduled flight or by Eurostar train to London Waterloo on the day of your choice.

A holiday perfect for that special occasion!

PRICES:

2 nights - 1 night Orient Express plus
1 night hotel in Amsterdam -
3 Star £449, 4 Star £470, 5 Star £490.
3 nights - 1 night Orient Express plus
2 nights hotel in Amsterdam -
3 Star £495, 4 Star £525, 5 Star £570.
(Other durations available. Prices based on two people sharing)

Reg. in England 1908987 Newspaper Publishing PLC

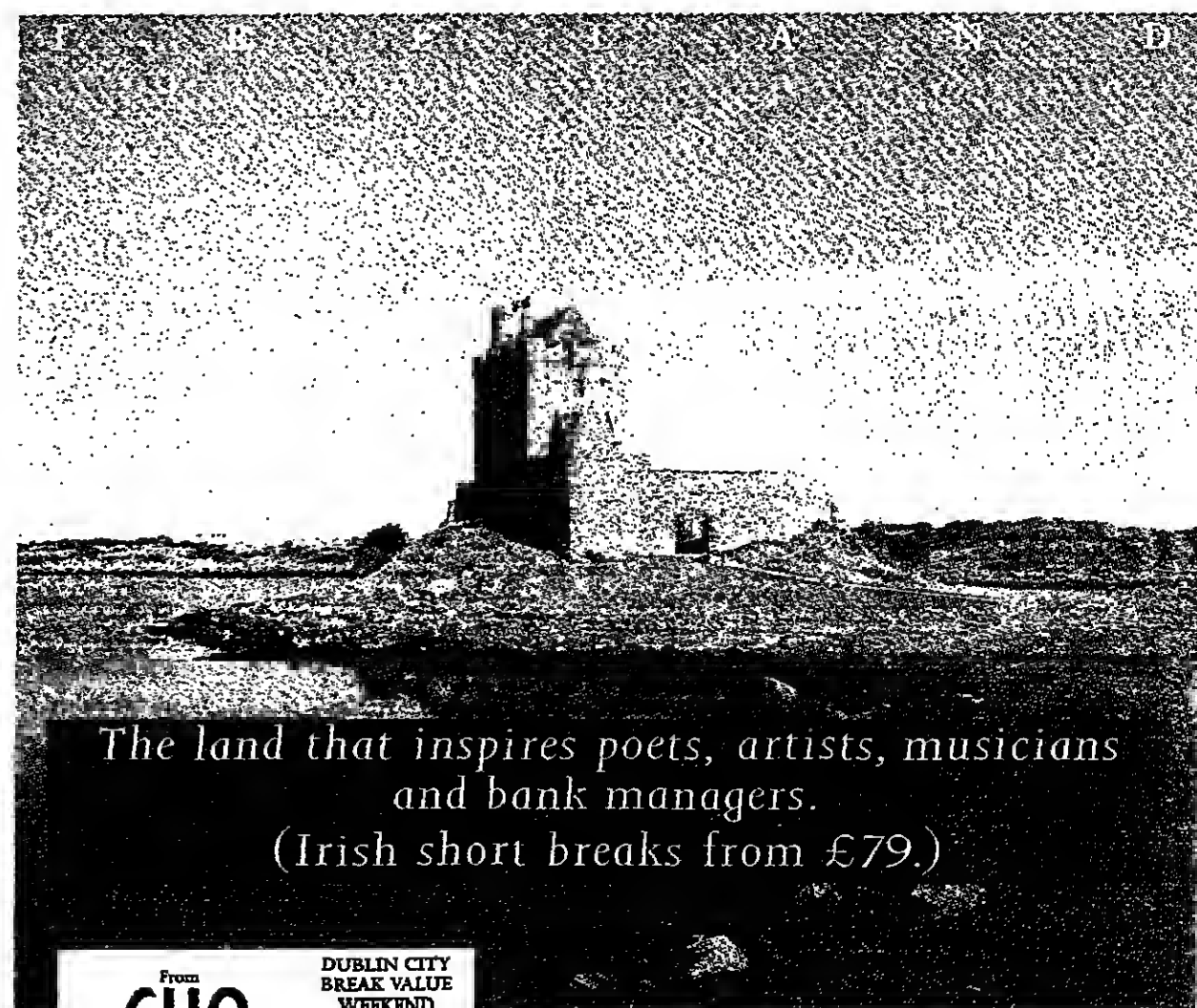


For full details or to book, please call Highlight Travel on **0990 737373**

or send completed coupon to: INDEPENDENT TRAVEL OFFER Highlight Travel Ltd, PO Box 39, Hoddessdon, Herts EN10 7RJ

Name: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
☐ Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive future mailings from NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING PLC or from companies approved by NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING PLC

All holidays are ABTA bonded (E7773)



The land that inspires poets, artists, musicians and bank managers.
(Irish short breaks from £79.)

From **£110** per person.
Aer Lingus
0181-569 4001

DUBLIN CITY BREAK VALUE WEEKEND

Return flights, with two nights B&B accommodation, including taxes and service charges.
Based on 2 people travelling together, sharing twin room, and spending one Sunday night in Ireland. Valid until March 31st 1996.

The Irish Tourist Boards, North and South, have got together to open up a world of possibilities on the Emerald Isle.

An active break? Ireland has some of the most exhilarating riding, golfing, angling, climbing and sea fishing in Europe. Or, when only a gentle pace and sheer tranquillity will do, you'll find Ireland's world-famous welcome is warmer than ever.

You'll find we know the meaning of good value better than most. So talk to us! Call us free on 0800 00 96 96 and we'll send you our free holiday pack. We're waiting for your call right now.

From **£79** per person.
IRISH FERRIES
0990 143 427

IRELAND 48 HOUR RETURN

From Holyhead-Dublin and Pembroke-Rosslare.
Based on Car for up to 5 adults. Available up to May 22nd. Excluding April 3rd-7th 1996.

From **£203** per person sharing.
TIME OFF
0171-245 0055

SPRING IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

Flights to Shannon from Gatwick, including car hire and three nights in a 3* hotel.
Based on two adults sharing. Valid from March 1st until May 25th 1996.

Ireland Holidays '96
The best of Ireland from top to bottom

Overseas Travel	Overseas Travel	Overseas Travel	Overseas Travel
-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------

**Holidays
with Style**

46 years experience
in operating quality
holidays to:

**GERMALTA, MARBELLA,
LA MANGA, VALLICA,
MADEIRA, MOROCCO,
TUNISIA, MALTA,
GOZO, COMINO,
CYPRESS, BERMUDA,
HISYRI & GUERNSEY.**

■ **SUPERB** selections of 2, 3
& 5 star hotels & self
catering apartments.

■ **FREE** international flights.

■ **DAILY** scheduled
discount card, private
tour transfers and
guide book.

■ **FABULOUS** child, Senior

**ANNUAL
TRAVEL
INSURANCE
FROM £46.**

With insurance starting
from just £46, contact
the name you can trust
for the best deals on
Annual Multi Trip cover.
Other policies available - Call for details.

For travellers under 65
years only.

GA

General Accident
Direct



Skiing Holidays

SIGFOOT TRAVEL
CHAMONIX
QUALITY ACCOM &
SERVICE - CHALETS
HOTELS - APARTS
SPECIAL FLEXI DATES
SPECIAL SAVING
SPECIAL RATE
PARTY DISCOUNT GROUPS
TEL: 01471 579401

**SNOW,
DEEP SNOW**
Bareges / La Mongie
French Pyrenees
Best skiing for years,
3m deep and powder,
110 km pistes,
Why are you waiting?
Book early! 01273 231899

WORLD
GALAPAGOS & ECUADOR
2 weeks aboard sailing
yacht, Galapagos 1 week
Quito, Cotacachi etc
21 July & 7 October
(21 day) from £3375
CRUISE TRAVEL
0181 744 0474
Fax: 0181 744 6557

Africa.
AFRICA TRAVEL - CENTRE
Fagotowor/Haramantsoa, Pig
cultural dance holidays, sunset
first & class specialists, For further
info & brochure 071
5898976, ATOL 3594.
FLYDRIVE SPECIAL, 10 days
Gusael Farm, hotel accom, Ac
ons to the Cape, Swaziland,
KwaZulu, Natal, Hazyton Hotel

cottages with private pools
in unvisited rural locations.
01403 259 788 (central)
Open Sundays 11-3

 **ILIOS ISLAND
HOLIDAYS LTD**

UNIT 1, TOWN LE, NEW
STREET, L4 2 7Z

**THE
ART OF
LIVING IN
ITALY**

*Traditional farmhouses,
villas and apartments in
Italy's prettiest regions.*

**FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING
(01798) 869421 QUOTE 1171**

VACANZE IN ITALIA. 4798. 2411
620 B.R.D.
MIMBRIA 2km Lago Trasimeno farmh
APT Sips 4 ideal touring base
Buche 1011 9245938
WILLIAMS
MIMBRIA/TUSCANY BORDER.
Beautiful, restored, stone farm-
house. Sips 6. Own pool.
Secluded. Fabulous views. 01304
38245T.
MIMBRIA. Charming, quiet cot-
tage. Gdn. Sips 4/6. £180-225 pw.
01227 765750
THE REAL, SILENT, ACCOMMODATION &
authentic food and wine in on his-
toric patrician villa. Tours of its
ancient culture. For Spring '95
Brochure Tel 0181 577 0433.
LIVDRIVE TUSCANY/UMBRIA.

ABRUS, S. & C. High in the Alps.
S. 0181 847 6748 (24hrs) ATOL 809.

MIRIA, Beautiful life site in lovely wild slopes of C. Italy.
S. 0181 847 6748 (24hrs) ATOL 809.

Spectacular views, min. wks.
From £400pp. Broch (01445) 712729

AVAILABLE From April, spectrum self-contained 3 bdrm half of our restored stone farmhouse, 45 mins N. of Lucca, Tuscany. Farn-situation on pine/holly wooded hillside. Lovely walks to local villages & min. stops. 1.5 hrs Florence & Pisa airport. Brochure 01323 898639

ALBARRIA - Loads of sun at our villa sites, great beaches below. Direct great good prices. 0181 862 5600

PULIA, CALABRIA, SICILY Aeol-ies Includes Undiscovered South. Hottest resorts, pools. Tel. 011694) 722193. ATOL 4029

Turkey

SIMPLY TURKEY. Personal service from Turkey specialists. Private villas, converted cottages, select hotels, tailor made itineraries, guest cruises, special interest holidays, scuba diving and short breaks to Istanbul. For our friendly and informative brochure call 0181 995 9332. ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922.

COCOS DE TREVINO (N. Spain)
 Cocos de Trevino, Tel. (71)743.

**PANTRY, 20 year round wedding,
 wedding & gastronomic holidays in
 Spain & Portugal incl. Picos de
 Europa, Andorra, & Mallorca. Tel
 01457 836250 ATOL 3232.**

**INDALCALIA 2/4 bed houses, 1
 pool, pond. In beautiful valley or
 small Abajurales village 40 km from
 Granada. (0161) 225070.**

**CO-LINKS. 882/week catering in
 unspoilt beautiful mountainous
 areas of inland rural Spain. Tel
 Brochure 0141 339 4314 ATOL
 492.**

**INDALCALIA, GAUCING, Traditional
 "whiter" than villages. Lovely old
 gardens. Steps 2-19, vineyard,
 olive grove, 10000 sq ft. Tel
 01457 836250 ATOL 3232.**

FLORIDA VACATIONS. Individuals

[illegible]

Australia		
		
SEAT ONLY TO SYDNEY		
NIGHTS	PRICE	
21	£469	

	14	£449
R	14, 21	£499
	14, 21	£459
R	14	£459

TELETEXT PAGE 258 FOR MORE OFFERS

FLY FROM GATWICK

YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT OR CALL



01706 232324

Mon-Fri 8am-5pm Sat-Sun 9am-5pm

Airtours

Going further to make you happy

Days Ltd., acting as agents for Airtours plc, ATOL 1195. Airtours

SEATS SEAT ONLY / FLY-DRIVE

SEAT	FLY-DRIVE	DATE	SEAT	FLY-DRIVE
£259	£259	1.4 JUN	£259	£279
£239	£239	7.8 JUN	£279	£299

\$249	\$259	15 JUN	\$279	\$279
\$279	\$289	16 JUN	\$279	\$299
\$259	\$269	21 JUN	\$259	\$279
		28 JUN	\$299	\$319

LABLE FROM E. MIDLANDS, BIRMINGHAM & CARDIFF

TELETEXT PAGE 258 FOR MORE OFFERS

FLY FROM GATWICK

YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT OR CALL

01706 232324

Morfri 8am-5pm Sat-Sun 9am-5pm

Airtours

Building further to make your holiday

...of choice from the Airtours collection

choice of flights, hotels and transfers. All holidays include car hire. Valid until subject of brochures from 4th March 1996. £ per adult. Children's rates apply where appropriate. Bookings subject to availability at present prices.

**If you wish to
advertise in this
section please
telephone the
Travel Team on
0171 293 2222**

هكذا من الأهل

Sometimes, only the best will do

Tropical flowers in the bedroom, lunch brought to the beach. That's Mustique. By Rosie Millard

Now I don't wish to knock all those budget guidebooks that tell you how to crash out in Manhattan for a dollar, or give tips on how to create a tasty meal of lentils while on a bike. But sometimes a holiday of hedonism is all that will do. I mean glamour: the sort of trip that requires nail varnish and dressing up for dinner.

Barbados, with its true winter "season", is a good contender. "Our season runs from mid-December to mid-April," says Trevor Ramsay, owner of the Treasure Beach Hotel on the western side of the island. "It's a little more, well, polished than the season in resorts in places like Africa." The hotel, which consists of 25 private suites, surrounds a pool and garden blooming with hibiscus, bougainvillea and jasmine. You can laze on the beach every day, and drink cocktails and dance to calypso bands every night. Best of all, between November and March, there are no kids under 12. But is there glamour? "Oh yes, we have the stars here. Dave Allen, Brian Ferry. And Mark Pitman was married here. It was in Hellot."

Well, quite. But I don't want to have my holiday wrecked by invasions from Hellot. I want private luxury, true get-away-from-it-all glamour. So I flew away from Barbados in a nine-seater Cessna and went to the tiny island of Mustique.

There's just one landing strip, carved out between high, heavily wooded mountains. There are no night flights: in emergencies, people on the island simply drive along to the airport and line their cars up with the headlights full on, to provide illumination. The airport itself is a small hut with a bench for Customs, and, weirdly, a lending library, two bamboo bookshelves stacked with titles such as *Fishing with Ray Bergman*. And that's it. Celebrity marriages? I don't think so. The paparazzi have their cameras removed on arrival. Welcome to the most exclusive island in the Caribbean.

Mustique was put on the map by Princess Margaret who was given a plot of land here as a wedding present by Colin Tennant. Tennant had bought the three-mile long island in 1959 for £43,000. It was a lot of money for not very much: an empty wilderness with no fresh water and a rampaging population of mosquitoes (hence the name). But Tennant had a vision and in subsequent years he managed to woo the talented, artistic and mega-rich from all over the world in order to achieve it.

Margaret built a villa on her plot of land and brought her social set along for Christmas. Gradually, they too bought their own plots of land and built their villas; and thus began the history of Mustique's glittering exclusivity. You can practically smell it on arrival. Brushed beaches, clipped grass and blue skies frame multi-million dollar houses in a guaranteed mosquito-free atmosphere thanks to frequent visits from sprayer planes. The houses aren't built on the



Yes, it's expensive. But such is the experience that you only need two or three days on the Caribbean island to feel like a superstar

beaches. They don't need to be. These people have their own pools, their own jacuzzis; hey, they even come equipped with golf-simulation cinemas equipped just so you can practise your swing. Who lives here? Oh, the Jaggers, royals, Swiss bankers. Serious money. "Didn't you know that David Bowie's just sold up, for four?" Four what? Thousands? Hundreds of thousands? "No, stupid. Millions." In Mustique, everyone speaks in multiples of six zeros.

For mere mortals, Mustique is probably the best place in the world where you can still play at being a superstar for a week. More private club than resort, this is one place in the Caribbean where parties from cruise ships are not welcome. There's only one hotel, for a start. The Cotton House, an 18th-century coral and stone cotton warehouse that was taken over by Tennant and used as his HQ in the Sixties, is now a deluxe hotel and centre of the island's social scene. Decorated in a somewhat outrageous style by the theatrical designer Oliver Messel, the Cotton House now has 20 suites dotted about the grounds surrounding the main building, and a reputation for service that relegates the average five-star British hotel to something approximating a motorway service station.

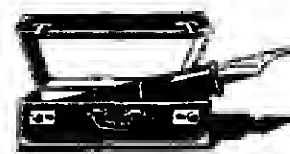
Oh yes, there's all the regular luxuries like tropical flowers in the bedroom, ice-buckets changed regularly and cocktails on arrival, but lunch brought by hand to whichever beach you desire? Surely some mistake? Not at all. If you wish to pretend that you're in some Fleming-esque fantasy, you can do so. A brief word at breakfast by the pool is all that's necessary. So after a morning swimming, snorkelling or going for a gallop along one of the island's pure white, combed beaches, you simply plonk yourself down at the appointed site with a towel and plenty of factor 25 and wait for nourishment. At the pre-arranged moment, it will arrive.

British people not used to this sort of treatment might find Mustique hard to swallow. It's also rather expensive: the price for a room for two per night can rival the cost of your transatlantic flight. But you only need two or three days here, so intense is the experience. After lunch on the beach, full English tea is served in the main dining room. The room still has Colin Tennant's original decorations: armchairs studded with cowrie shells are flanked by Indian chests and stuffed birds in glass cases. Every day at tea-time, triangular sandwiches arrive on trays, plus *petits fours*, banana bread and Caribbean tea with condensed milk.

Every Tuesday night the management of the Cotton House invites hotel guests and anyone else currently staying on the island, to a cocktail party. Unlike with most "drinks with the management" invitations, everyone turns up. Mustique is so small and the amusements on the island are so limited, that there's not much else to do. So you could end up having drinks with Mick Jagger, Spike Lee, David and Serena Linley, and Billy Joel, all at the same time. Then you get invited to pop back to their pads for dinner. It happens. "Don't take it too seriously," we are warned. "Casual, informal elegance. Wear your little black dress if you like, but with bare feet." Bare feet? For dancing on the beach. But don't forget to have a pedicure.

Rosie Millard paid £300 for a London-Barbados ticket through Golden Lion Travel (01293 567800). The Treasure Beach in Barbados and the Cotton House in Mustique are both bookable in the UK through Unique Hotels (01453 855501). At Treasure Beach, the cheapest room until 12 April is £276 without meals; from 13 April, the price halves to £134. From now until mid-April, a deluxe room at the Cotton House costs £370 half-board including tax. During the low season (15 April-15 December), the price falls to £253.

something to declare



A likely story

"Privatisation will result in maintained consistency in our on-time performance" - LIAT Islander, the flight magazine of Leeward Islands Air Transport

This claim, if true, is not good news for those accustomed to LIAT's consistent unreliability. But aficionados of the Caribbean's uniquely unpredictable airline will be relieved to hear that the recent sell-off has done nothing to change its style. Over the years stranded passengers have had ample time to invent alternatives for its acronym: Leaving Island Any Time, Luggage In Another Terminal or, Late If At All.

A recent trip through the Eastern Caribbean reminded me of why the airline inspires a BR-style mix of affection and loathing among its users. Its most quirky habit is not to display departure times, since this would make it a hostage to fortune. One therefore depends on announcements, which are normally inaudible and timed to coincide with the arrival of an incoming jet. In St Kitts, one announcement announced that an announcement would shortly tell us what had happened to our missing plane. Departing passengers have been known to rush out onto

the tarmac in pursuit of a departing plane, only to find it was an entirely different service, equally unannounced.

Once on board, don't be surprised by a few unscheduled island stops en route. Conversely, if nobody else wants to go to the same island as you, market forces may prevail and your destination may be dropped altogether - an element of last-minute suspense in every flight. On the plus side, LIAT has a good safety record, its little Twin Otters landing on some of the world's shortest and scariest airstrips. Its Airpass and Explorer deals allow you to do some extensive island-hopping at a reasonable price and connect you to some otherwise inaccessible destinations. Privatisation may turn LIAT into a streamlined, efficient operation. There again, the big new shareholder is none other than British West Indian Airways (BWIA), itself not famed for scrupulous punctuality. The omens are not promising.

James Ferguson

Trouble spots

The week's advice from our man in the Foreign Office

Russia: the advice remains the same as it was before this week's killing of British businessman in a St Petersburg hotel. "Incidents of mugging, theft and pick-pocketing are increasing in all cities, especially St Petersburg and Moscow. Be vigilant and dress down. Be particularly wary in Moscow of groups of young vagrants."

Sri Lanka: "Fighting is continuing in the north and east. Do not visit these areas. The south and centre, including all the main tourist areas and the 'Cultural Triangle', remain largely unaffected. Further information may be obtained direct from the British High Commission in Colombo (tel 437336, fax 430308).

Yemen: "Armed theft of vehicles, particularly of four-wheel-drive models, is not uncommon. The risk of random kidnapping remains. In January 1996 a group of French tourists was held. As in other incidents the tourists were released unharmed after several days. There remains some danger from mines laid during the civil war in the southern and eastern governorates."

Ethiopia: "Visitors should confine themselves to the recognised tourist areas including the Rift Valley lakes, Addis Ababa and the Highland tourist route. Avoid travel after dark and take accommodation only in the larger towns."

Foreign Office travel advice is available on 0171-270 4129, on BBC 2's *Celebrity* page 564 onwards, and on the Internet at <http://www.fco.gov.uk/>

Bargain of the week

Pricing a fly-drive holiday to America can be a slippery business; often the extras add up to more than the basic air fare. But Jetset (0990 555757) says its April special to California will cost precisely £319, plus \$15 (£10) payable locally for state tax. The deal is

based on two people travelling together. It provides Heathrow-Los Angeles flights on Air New Zealand between 11 and 29 April, and a week's car rental. The price includes including taxes, collision damage waiver, airport surcharges and unlimited mileage.

The Wildest Dreams Travel Challenge

The biggest obstacle to independent travel is cost. So Heiniken Export, in association with the Independent, is offering a travel bursary of up to £25,000.

Who can enter?

Anyone aged 18-35.

How to enter

Application forms will be assessed by a panel of experts. Forms are available from the special hotline number 0171-231 5432; the Lonely Planet Internet <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/au/>; or at STA Travel shops.

When to enter

By 26 April. Winners will be announced on 6 May. If you are planning to leave before then, we will be making interim awards.

How much is the prize?

Awards are at the judges' discretion. One exceptional proposal (say a tour of the 177 countries where Heiniken Export is available) could win the full amount...

Last station: Gunnislake

Simon Calder travels on a coast-embracing branch line that, miraculously, has escaped the cuts

Devon and Cornwall have some glorious railways, such as the elegant, lazy arc carved around St Michael's Bay by the Penzance train, and the coast-embracing line from Teignmouth to Dawlish. But the real aficionado is travelling on one of the shorter, sturdier stretches.

There are two ways to travel to Cornwall by train, and the thousands of holiday-makers rumbling across Brunel's strident Royal Albert Bridge aboard InterCity 125s have chosen the lesser option. Seekers of scenery, railway history and solitude choose the Tamar Valley line.

Quite how this 14-mile zig-zag of track has survived round after round of railway cutbacks is hard to explain. On the day last week when I travelled on it, we passengers played out a 2-2 draw with the crew. Even at the frightful cost of 27 pence a mile I was paying, it is hard to see how Regional Railways can keep the line going.

Yet six days a week (and on summer Sundays), a two-coach train sets off from Plymouth to explore the river valley that

divides Devon from Cornwall. You plod through the sorry cityscapes punctuated by pauses at Dockyard and Devonport, through stations whose antiquated names are sometimes longer than the platform needed for these two-coach shuttles: St Budeaux Victoria Road takes its place with Lymington Commando among the more ambitiously named Devonian stations.

Your train diverts from the line leading across the Tamar here, and immediately the tone changes. The austere suburbs give way to grand views across to Cornwall - a collage of steeply wooded slopes sliding into sharp, black water.

In its promotional material, the railway company erroneously describes it as "One of England's loveliest branch lines". Yet only the last short segment was originally a branch. The stretch as far as Bere Alston, a truly heroic link between Plymouth and London, was built by the London & South Western Railway. Bere Alston was Devon's own Clapham Junction, where the Gunnislake branch darted off from the im-

portant main line. "Up trains" to London wheezed uphill towards Tavistock and skirted around the northern fringe of Dartmoor to reach the capital. Now the sole purpose of the station is as a reversing point, from which the train sets off to cross the Tamar into Cornwall.

Calstock could be the epicentre of the heritage industry, its sturdy cottages simpering prettily beneath the arm of a mathematically exact viaduct across the river. That the first village in Cornwall manages to elude the twee in favour of the Newtonian perfection of the viaduct is evident to everyone except passengers. Your £3.80 ticket entitles you to get off, look around and wait two hours for the next train.

The last two miles along the Gunnislake branch climbs several hundred feet into the Cornish hills. The train hauls itself into a station which is more municipal car park than great railway terminus. We passengers alight, leaving Regional Railways £7.60 better off - but us tourists much the richer.

The Waterways of Russia

The opening of the waterways between St Petersburg and Moscow allows us to link visits to two great cities with a relaxing cruise that travels the Neva River, Lake Ladoga, the Svir River, Lake Onega, the Baltic Canal, White Lake, the Volga River and finally the Moscow and Volga Canal. This intricate system of waterways has a beauty that is hard to describe. Serene, peaceful and timeless with silver birch and pine forests, sandy shores, calm flowing water and spectacular late sunsets, in these realms of the 'White Nights', calls will be at such historic towns as Uglich, where the blue cupolas decorated with the golden stars of the riverside church make a stunning landmark.

For this journey we have selected the MS Karamzin which, although not as high a standard as our other vessels, the MY Kurov, offers very good facilities considering the competitive tariff. This 14-night tour will therefore appeal to those wishing to see unspoilt parts of Russia from an economical and comfortable base.

ITINERARY IN BRIEF
Day 1 Fly from Gatwick to Moscow and embark the MS Karamzin. Day 2 City tour of Moscow. Day 3 Afternoon tour of the Kremlin including the Armoury. Day 4 Day free before sailing in the late afternoon. Day 5 Visit Uglich. Day 6 Visit Kos-



Linking St Petersburg and Moscow along the quiet rivers, lakes and canals of Russia

14 nights from £935.00

truma. Day 7 Visit Yaroslavl. Day 8 Visit Irma. Day 9 Visit Goritsy. Day 10 Visit Kizhi Island. Day 11 Visit Svir Stroy. Day 12 Arrive St Petersburg. Afternoon visit to the Hermitage. Day 13 Morning excursion to Pushkin. Day 14 Day at leisure. Day 15 Fly from St Petersburg to Gatwick.

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES
Saturdays - per person in a twin
Moscow to St Petersburg - May 25 & August 3
St Petersburg to Moscow - Jun 8 & Aug 17
All departures £935.00
Supplements per person
Single cabin £200 - Main Deck £95
Upper Deck £150 - Boat Deck £220.

Price includes: air travel, full board, excursions, entrance fees, all transportation, services of cruise director. Not included: travel insurance, airport taxes, visa. Visa All prices are subject to change.

0171-616 1000

VOYAGES JULES VERNE

21 Dorset Square, London W1V 6GG

Travel Promotions Ltd. ABTA 11601 XTVLSCB

Our offices are open from 10.00am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday. For personal calls, our office hours are 10.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

ICELAND

Romantic Reykjavik, or Red Hot City Break?

6 nights from £246 (from Heathrow)
8 nights from £233 (from Glasgow)

Hot Lagoon bathing, a candle-lit dinner and dance the night away in Reykjavik's famous night spots. Then the big surprise - hot geysers volcanoes and stunning waterfalls just a short tour from your doorstep - all just over 2 1/2 hrs flight away. Price inc: flights, hotel accommodation, and local taxes. (Quick weekends 1 night from £199).

See your local travel agent or call our 24-hr Brochure Line on 01426 933 365 and ask for the Reykjavik Breakaway brochure. Or call Icelandair on 0171 388 5599.

ICELANDAIR

JOURNEY TO THE TSARS. £299.



City Breaks to Moscow & St Petersburg. What better way to experience the imperial capitals of Russia than with Intourist Travel. Choose a weekend break from £299 or a twin centre holiday. And if you wish to live like a Tsar, take a Deluxe Tour and stay in the finest four and five star hotels in these spectacular cities. Break away to Russia - with the specialist, Intourist Travel.

FOR YOUR FREE BROCHURE CALL 0171 538 8600 0161 834 0230

Please send me more information on Intourist holidays.

Name _____ 7 IND

Address _____

Intourist Travel Ltd, Intourist House, 210, Marsh Wall, London E14 9PZ.

ABTA 15059

Intourist TRAVEL LIMITED

Now you can.

And the walls came crumbling down

When oil fever came to a small Lancashire community hope sprang eternal. Then the vibrations started. By Jim White

One day in April 1987 Alyson Guest was sitting on the lavatory in of the flat she was renting at one end of a creaking old stone farmhouse in the middle of the Lancashire moor country. Suddenly, and for no apparent reason, she was thrown from the seat by severe wobbling coming from within the porcelain. Leaping up and standing astonished on the other side of the room, Ms Guest noticed that the lavatory, which was bolted directly into the ground, vibrated for some time as if directly wired to a small nuclear power station.

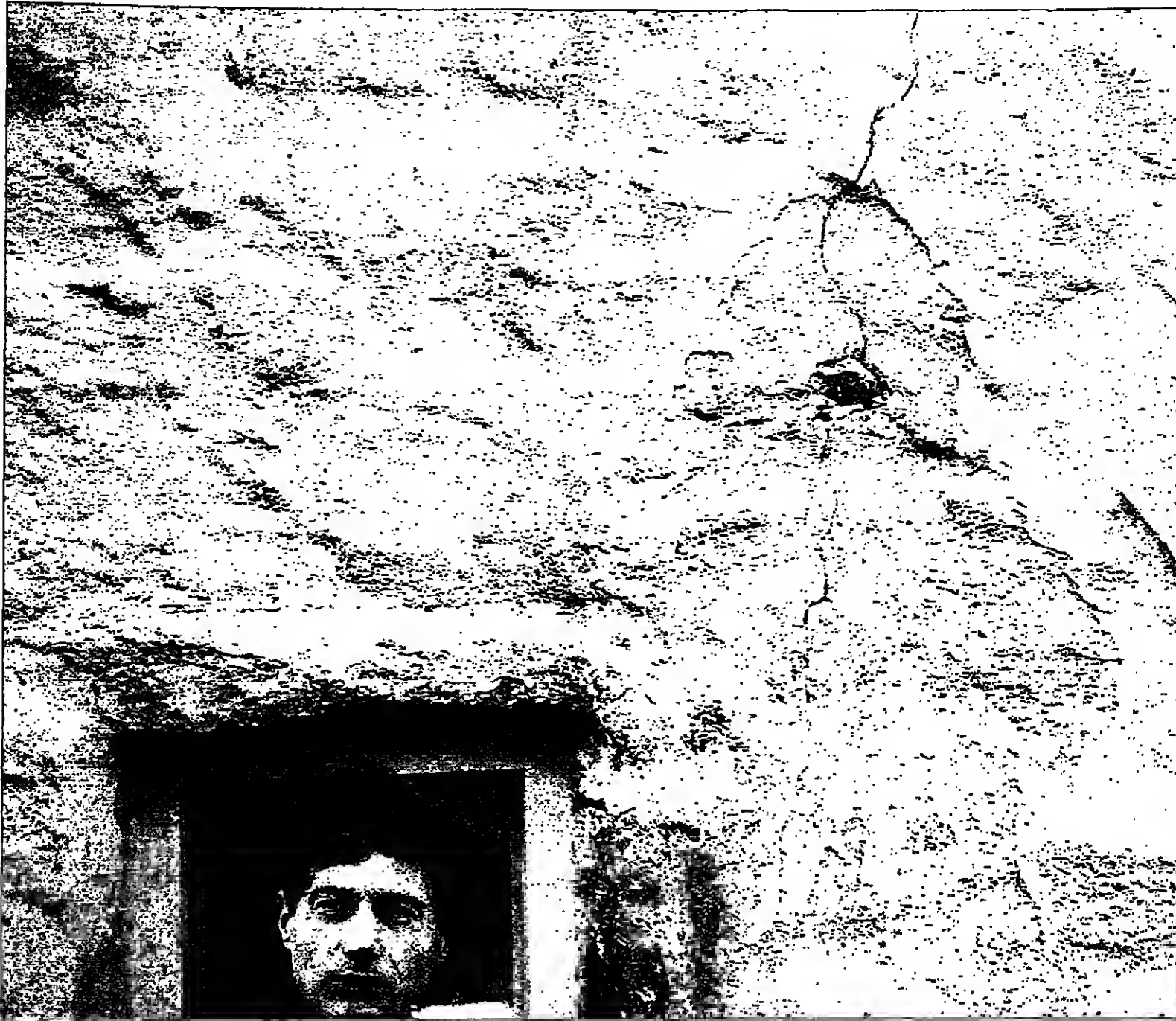
"The vibrations were so severe it was quite impossible to continue," she said, of the task in hand.

Recovering from her shock, and alerted by a rumbling noise outside, Ms Guest ran out into the lane which runs along the front of the house in time to see three trucks slowly wending their way towards the village of Slaidburn. She noted the name on the back of one of the lorries and returned to her business.

The following weekend, Christopher Wenner, a member of the family who owns the house and uses one wing for holidays, came to stay. He noticed, as he turned his car into the yard behind the house that the dry-stone walls which flanked the lane on either side of the building had collapsed. Worse was to follow, opening the front door he was immediately struck by extensive wave-like cracking in previously sound walls and ceilings. There was more severe damage, too: big cracks running up the back of the house, which passed straight through the lintel stones under a couple of windows. One internal split was sufficiently expansive for the water pipes running behind the plaster to be exposed. Wenner was astonished at the damage, which looked as if the whole house had been picked up and shaken. He immediately asked Alyson Guest if anything unusual had happened around the place recently. Well, she said, there was the time she was thrown off the lavatory by these unaccountable vibrations. And then there were the lorries.

Laytham's Farm is over 350 years old, a house built without foundations in the same way as dry-stone walls, with a time in-fill and plaster on the exterior. In several places the outside walls are bolted together with metal strapping. It is not, as any casual observer might take note, the strongest of constructions.

Nevertheless it commands a magnificent view over the Forest of Bowland to one side and the Hodder Valley to the other. Looking across the fells on a February morning, with the wind whipping the rees as if bent on a mission of revenge, you might think there is not a lot out there on the bleak, battered fells that anyone would be interested in. But in April 1987, Enterprise Oil, the great success com-



Martin Wenner and one of the cracks in his cottage caused by seismic sounding

Photograph: Joe Houlihan/Gazelle

pany of the Eighties (which in 1990 was named as paying its staff more than anyone else in Britain) were very interested in the place. They thought they sniffed oil.

Unlike in the title sequence of the TV series *The Beverly Hills Billies*, when Jed Clampett goes out shooting at some food, and up from the ground comes a bubbling crude, if there was oil round Bowland way it was well out of gunshot range. So Enterprise contracted a firm called Simon Horizon, who had in their possession several Vibroseis wagons. A German machine with an enormous circular pad like a giant dustbin lid strapped to its undercarriage, the lorry moves into position,

then winches itself up off its wheels allowing all its three tons to press down on the pad. The pad then vibrates vigorously, enabling sound waves to pass through the ground to a depth of three kilometres and to a radius of four. The name on the truck Alyson Guest had spotted was Simon Horizon.

It didn't take Chris Wenner long to put together a theory as to why his house suddenly resembled a lump of Stilton. Local gossip in Slaidburn was full of oil talk, the seismic soundings and how everyone would benefit when the place was full of free-spending Texans. Wenner thought he ought to contact Enterprise and see what they had to

say. So, soon after the incident, a helpful and attentive employee of the company, called Mr Aspinall, arrived at Laytham's. He took a look round, noted the splits in the pavement outside, the way the roof of the outhouse was coming away from its walls, and all the interior and exterior damage to the house and satisfied himself that the Wenners were not trying to pull a fast one. Seismic sounding can cause damage to dry stone walls, he revealed, indeed the company had contracted a full-time waller to make good any vibration damage throughout the area (hence the manner in which the Wenner's field walls were quickly repaired). Besides, he added, the sub-contractors

were given guidelines, don't vibrate within 100 metres of vulnerable buildings; and the schedule of work he showed Wenner revealed that a testing had been done on the lane right outside Laytham's, the front wall of which is only two metres from the tarmac. An open and shut case, Wenner thought.

Nearly nine years later, Martin Wenner - Christopher's brother - stands in the kitchen of Laytham's with a briefcase full of documentation.

"Our costs so far," he says, waving about a wad of papers, many of them tied with legal red ribbon, "have touched £30,000. And still there is no sign of a settlement."

When you engage with a large corporation over a matter of compensation, they will more easily stand the legal costs of a long-running case than you can.

"After Mr Aspinall had been we thought that was it," says Martin. "And then he rang to say, sorry, there was nothing he could do. The matter was being taken out of his hands and put with the legal department. If we wanted compensation, we'd have to sue." And then the costs began to tick up like a taxi fare in a traffic jam: £750 for an architect's report, £3,500 for a structural surveyor's report, £10,000 for a top-notch solicitor and £5,500 for an engineering survey of the house. The survey found that "it is reasonable to conclude that the seismic survey caused damage to stone structures in the area."

"And we've had to spend money on repairing as much as we can, otherwise the house would have collapsed - although we have been forced to leave some of the damage unattended, as evidence," says Martin, standing by a crack he had just discovered hiding behind a radiator, through which a stiff breeze whistles.

There have been farcical moments in the Wenner's nine year *Bleak House* experience of suit and brief, such as the time the sub-contractors sought to have the case struck off on the grounds that it had not been filed within the statutory limitation period.

"It had," says Martin. "But of course a judge had to hear their case, then throw it out which inevitably caused yet more delay. We're still waiting for a date when a judgement can be reached. And the longer we wait, the more it will cost us."

Meanwhile, by a bizarre coincidence, Martin, who is an actor, landed a part in the television series *Roughnecks*, playing an oil company explorations executive. As a piece of extended method-acting research, this was in the De Niro class.

"I certainly knew what I was talking about," he says. "And then we had to film out on an oil platform which turned out to be owned by, yes you've guessed it, Enterprise Oil. I feel they have invaded every aspect of my life."

When we contacted Enterprise about the affair, their helpful spokesman said that while the company accepted liability for the damage caused to the Wenner property during the exploration in the Hodder Valley, court proceedings were required to settle the amount of compensation due (though there has never been a written admission of liability). And as yet there was no date for such proceedings.

"If they are saying that," says Martin, in the resigned tone of one who knows the answer, "Why on earth couldn't the thing have been settled nine years ago when it would have cost about a tenth of what it will cost now?" Incidentally, during the survey of the Hodder Valley, no oil was found.

Tel: 0171 293 2222

property • residential

Fax: 0171 293 2505

Accommodation Wanted

TWO CONSCIOUS COMMITTED SELF FUNDING second year entrepreneurs at 30/40 urgently seek central London accommodation as caretakers. Excellent references. Tel: 0171 7273155

Country Property

Warwickshire nr. Rugby

Situated on edge of village. Sitting room, dining room, fitted kitchen, 4 bedrooms, second sitting room, 2nd bedroom, bathroom with shower, hall/entry, Double Glazing, Oil CH, Double Garage, Workshop, well laid out garden.

£160,000 Tel: 01788 299700

Dorset/Hampshire

THE COUNTY HOMESearch CO. For a brochure on how our professional, personal, independent, services can find and secure your ideal property please Tel: 01862 715768

France

FRENCH PROPERTY NEWS monthly, for your free copy telephone 0181 9471854

LVT Well converted farmhouse, 4 acres of hillside in quiet village. All road corners, swimming pool, sleep 28. Tel: 01846 71746

FOCUS ON FRANCE Magazine For free copy Tel: 0181 542 0668

London Property

GOULD & COMPANY
CHARTERED SURVEYORS
21 & 22 The Boltons, London SW10

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE THE FREEHOLD OF

- Two adjoining houses in The Boltons
- Double Garage
- Large Rear Extension (at present housing chapel & other accommodation)
- Large Garden
- Overall Site Area of Approx. 0.50 acres (0.202 ha)



For further information contact the sole agents
Gould & Company,
Museum House,
Museum Street,
London WC1A 1JT
Telephone: 0171-637 8951

REGENT'S CANAL HOUSE

Around a New
Duckland
APARTMENTS
From £82,450
PENTHOUSES
£132,150

A selection of large two and three bedroom apartments, some with en-suite, access to a new landscaped garden & canal view.

Landhouse Basin & Canary Wharf

0171-403 0900

GREENWICH

Splendid, modern, brand new Studio - flat, with separate, self-contained, kitchen, bathroom, lounge, living area, large garden, parking space, wood floor, double glazing, centrally heated, 24 hr security, parking, access, excellent location.

£37,500

01865 201375

London Property

1 NEW INN SQUARE SHOREDITCH, EC2



1914 Edwardian City Printing Works
Nine live/work apartments in truly classic loft building.

- 10 ft patent metal windows
- Crystal Doors
- London Yellow Stocks
- Six person passenger lift
- External terraces

1,500 sq ft from £135,000

Open Saturday/Sunday
3/4 March 10.30 - 4.30

0171-729 7763

LOFT APARTMENT

Exclusive Loft Style
Development in former Victorian school, 500 sq ft, of double height space with large gallery, mahogany wood block flooring, low voltage lighting, finished steel worktops and cabinets, stainless steel Barbecue, hob and oven. High quality design and finish. Own entrance, O/S parking with communal gardens.

EAST DULWICH
£25,500

TEL: 0171 299 3823

London Property

OLD Sun WHARF
NARROW STREET LINESHOUSE E14

2 BED.
LUXURY APARTMENTS
FROM
£169,500

ALL SOUTH FACING WITH EXCEPTIONAL RIVER VIEWS

CLUTTONS
0171 407 3669

SALES OFFICE 0171 791 5318

SHOW SUITES OPEN 7 DAYS

Swing.

Even the smallest of 30 Shepherdess Walk, London N1 has room to swing a whole family of cats. Come and try.

SPACE

Classified Advertising
also appears on page 11.

London Property

GEMINI HOUSE
180/182 BERMONDSEY STREET SE1

VICTORIAN WAREHOUSE CONVERSION IN HEART OF CONSERVATION AREA

3 RESIDENTIAL SHELLS REMAINING (3 SOLD)

2,650 SQ FT EACH

ENORMOUS POTENTIAL

PRICES FROM £170,000

OPEN DAY SUN 10th MARCH 10.00am - 4.00pm

CALL: ROGER SMITH 0171 403 0600

London Residential Property Gallery

On Sunday 17th March 1996, the Independent on Sunday will be carrying several pages dedicated exclusively to London Residential Properties. Its unique colour Property Gallery. Please call the contact number 0171 293 2302/2343. Booking deadline: Tuesday 8th March 1996.

Overseas Property

FRENCH PROPERTY EXHIBITION

22ND, 23RD, 24TH MARCH 1996

PRE 11.00am TO 10.00pm SAT 10.00am TO 5.00pm SUN 10.00am TO 5.00pm

THE SOLIHULL CONFERENCE & BANQUETING CENTRE, HOMER ROAD, SOLIHULL, BIRMINGHAM B91 3UN

Organised by FRENCH PROPERTY NEWS

25 Ludlow Road, London W8 7LH Tel: 011 422 1141

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST & BEST EXHIBITION FOR HOMES IN FRANCE

WORLD OF PROPERTY More than 500 other Free copy 0181 542 0668

money

WITH-PROFITS BOND

An investment that offers the best of both worlds.

Are you one of the thousands of savers about to receive a cash windfall as the first payouts are made from tax free TESSA accounts?

Before reinvesting any of your money you should stop and consider all the options available to you. Five years on from your initial choice, your circumstances have probably changed and another TESSA may not necessarily be the best option.

The Equitable Life is able to offer you an alternative investment. The Equitable With-Profits Bond.

With £500 or more you can invest in a managed fund of assets, which smooths the short-term fluctuations in value over the period of your investment.

You also have our guarantee that, whatever the future market conditions are like, at the fifth and subsequent anniversaries you can encash your Bond for its original value plus bonuses accrued.

What is more, you have the reassurance of dealing with The Equitable Life, the world's oldest mutual life office.

For more information by post and by telephone on The Equitable Life With-Profits Bond call Aylesbury (01296) 38 48 58 or return the coupon below.

Information advice will only be given on Equitable group products regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.
THE EQUITABLE LIFE WITH-PROFITS BOND. TELE: 01296 38 48 58. AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 9SR.
To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST Walsley, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 9SR.
I would welcome information on The Equitable With-Profits Bond. ☐ YES ☐ NO

NAME (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms) _____
ADDRESS _____

TEL (Office) _____
Tel (Home) _____
Date of Birth _____



The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles

The 'tax-free' tag is a powerful marketing tool for PEPs, even if for most investors the actual gains from putting their equity investments in a PEP is limited.

Nobody who opens a newspaper these days can doubt that this is the time of year for personal equity plans, or PEPs. With the end of the tax year barely a month away, the marketing effort by providers of PEPs is at its customary annual peak.

As a nation, it seems, most of us are unable to do anything with potential tax benefits until the last minute, and the suppliers of PEPs are naturally doing all they can to cash in on this most human of failings.

There is nothing much wrong with that. It is clear that PEPs have proved a worthwhile innovation since they were launched a few years ago. True, their global impact on savings patterns has been fairly marginal. The majority of people still prefer the security of building society savings schemes, such as TESSAs, to the potential roller-coaster ride of UK and European stockmarkets. But they have done a good deal to increase public awareness of the value of pooled equity investment.

The "tax-free" tag is a powerful marketing tool, even if for most investors the actual gains from putting their equity investments in a PEP is limited. For a long time, high charges ate up most of the tax savings investors made on their dividend payments. The people who really benefit from PEPs are those who have capital gains tax liabilities to shield, and that is still not a large number.

Overall, in a buoyant equity market, the arrival of PEPs has made a sizeable splash, vacuuming up tens of billions of pounds since their launch in 1987. The scale of investment has also been boosted by concessions from a succession of Chancellors.

The growing competition to provide low cost no frills PEPs – for example, index-tracking funds – is one of the most encouraging developments. The problem facing most investors now is that the choice of Peps has become bewilderingly large.

The latest guide by Chase de Vere, for example, lists no fewer than 1,190 different Peps, and picking the right one is no easy task. This is caused by the determination on the part of fund managers to pull in as much money as they can. To do this, they launch funds that are – despite all their claims – almost identical to those of their rivals, multi-



JONATHAN DAVIS
INVESTMENTS

plying the confusion of choice. Increasing numbers of financial advisers are becoming concerned at the problem.

The charges are still more opaque than they should be. The new disclosure rules designed to make charges more transparent do not come into force until later this year. In any event, proposals by the regulator – the Personal Investment Authority – were judged to be so limp that they have been vetoed by the Office of Fair Trading.

Looking at a recent survey by consultants Watson Wyatt, it is interesting to see which names have done best in attracting funds in the different sectors. In the index-tracking sector, for example, where Fidelity has just joined the competition, Legal & General has attracted the most funds – £368m at the end of last year – its distribution network putting it ahead of Gartmore, Virgin, Midland and Morgan Grenfell.

Index tracking funds will, it seems certain, do very well over the next few years, and as this is essentially a commodity market, you will expect the bulk of the funds to go to firms that can provide the cheapest product, or have some other reason – such as the Virgin brand – for winning a customer following.

Trackers, are by definition supposed to follow the market, although of course individual companies will tell you that each of them does it in a way designed to ensure better investment returns. Even so, if you've seen one tracker, you've seen them all, or just about, which is why these funds compete on price.

Among the higher income PEPs, the biggest funds, in order, are M&G, Clerical Medical, Newton, Schroders, Perpetual and Allied Dunbar. It is hard to discern much of a pattern there, although it is interesting that they include at least three of the best specialist stock-picking fund

management groups (M&G, Newton and Perpetual).

In this sector there seems to have been little competition so far on price. Nearly all have relatively high initial charges and pay good commissions to intermediaries, but their performance has also been good, so presumably investors are mostly happy to pay the extra costs, or may be unaware of how much they are being charged.

The investment trust PEP table shows that, of the trusts which responded to the survey, the one that had attracted most funds is none of the better known names, but Alliance, the Dundee-based investment trust company which is the byword for Scottish parsimony.

This is a quality, in my opinion, which investors should rate more highly than they sometimes do. The two investment trusts Alliance runs have done well for their shareholders for many years – nothing flashy, but solid, consistent performance at or above the market average – and rightly have a loyal following.

Investment trust PEPs generally are cheaper than their unit trust equivalents, but have long suffered from a lower profile in marketing. Apart from Alliance, other substantial investment trust PEP funds are those run by Schroders, Murray Johnstone and Dumedea (which is in the process of being taken over by Edinburgh Fund Managers).

Overall, the lists of successful PEP providers prompts two thoughts. One is that the market is still quite highly differentiated, with each sector having its own market leaders.

The second is that, while PEPs generally are much better value than they were, there is still massive scope for costs to fall. What it needs is for customers to start flexing their muscles and to demand greater information and cost competitiveness from providers.

May independent financial advisers do a good job in assessing the relative performance of different fund providers. Some have access to professional specialist fund rating services that provide detailed information on all the different PEPs and their managers. But what we still lack in this country is a similarly specialist service for the retail market which can be bought directly by members of the public at a suitable price.

The State has less and less money for Welfare.

How will you cope in old age?



It makes uncomfortable

maybe twenty or thirty

telling, but with more of the British population living to a greater age, there is going to be a big demand on the State's welfare services, and fewer working taxpayers to pay for it.

Inevitably the shortfall is going to have to be made up by the elderly themselves.

How well covered will you be? Will you have enough to pay for care, should it become necessary, for

years? The best answer is to talk to an independent financial adviser. He or she will give you expert and impartial advice in plain English. They'll find a solution for you which is precisely tailored to your circumstances.

Call us today for a copy of our free information pack. It should make your future look a lot healthier. **0117 971 1177**



It's your future. Take control of it.

Send to: IFA Promotion Limited, 17-19 Emery Road, Brislington, Bristol, BS4 5PF, or call 0117 971 1177. Please send me a free information pack and a list of three independent financial advisers convenient to my work or home address below. (We guarantee that no sales person will call or phone as a result of this coupon.)

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

The Power of Independent Finance

- An impartial choice from all the financial products available
- Expertise in savings, investments, insurance and pensions
- A review of your individual needs

Wherever you see the blue logo

This advertisement appears on behalf of Britain's independent financial advisers and has been approved by a person regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Not all of these products are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.



LOOSE CHANGE

Scottish Amicable is launching an investment bond which guarantees original investment back, plus 10 per cent, after five and a half years. Half the money is invested in a fund tracking the FTSE 100 share index, with the rest in fixed interest stocks. Minimum investment is £5,000. Call 0141 248 2323 for details.

Royal Bank of Scotland is launching a 24-hour offshore

telephone banking service linked to its Jersey subsidiary. Interest is paid free of tax, although it must be declared to UK tax authorities. Call 01534 24365 for details.

Fidelity Brokerage is offering a "bed-and-breakfast" share-dealing service aimed at minimising capital gains tax liabilities. The firm says a deal valued at £5,000 would cost a customer £50 in com-

mission. Call 0800 222190 for more information.

Alliance & Leicester is launching a new range of discounted and fixed rate mortgages, including a one-year discount of 4.5 per cent on a 95 per cent loan-to-value rate, bringing the cost down to 2.99 per cent. Two-year discounts of 2.6 per cent are available, bringing the current mortgage down to 4.89 per cent.

TESSAs are safe, sound, sensible investments. That said, both they – and their investors – can miss out in certain areas.

For example, most haven't been able to compete against the returns of a Standard Life managed growth PEP – £13,615 return*.

Standard Life managed growth PEP is without initial or exit charges, and there is only a difference of 0.5% between the buying and selling price of units. The annual management charge is 1.5%.

You can choose to save either with a lump sum or as little as £50 a month.

Ring or write to find out how much more you can get with Standard Life.

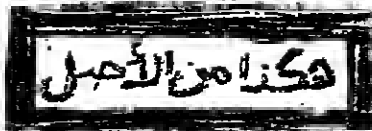
STANDARD LIFE

To: Standard Life Fund Management Limited, FREEPOST EH3245, Edinburgh, EH3 6SW.
Please send me written details about Standard Life PEPs.

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Telephone _____ (0181)

*Value as at 1.1.96 of £9000 invested in the Global Investment PEP. The PEP is a unit trust. Sources: Microcap and Monopoly. Past performance does not guarantee future performance. Unlike a bank or building society, Standard Life PEP is invested in a unit trust and the value of units can go down as well as up. There is no guarantee that your initial investment will be returned. Tax and the value of the investment depends upon your financial circumstances.

Standard Life Fund Management Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and 12000.



Why do so few people seem to have come across self-invested personal pensions?

MICHAEL ROYDE



A day in the life of a financial adviser

have had a number of clients in to see me over the last few months, who have had to sort out their pension arrangements. I find it quite surprising that so few people have come across self-invested personal pensions (or SIPP's).

These are like normal personal pensions, but the investments may be chosen on an individual basis rather than relying on the funds of any one insurance company.

This allows the financial adviser to pick investment managers who have consistently outperformed the market in each specific area of the world. They also allow the option of investing in property that one may then use to run business activities or rent out. The first client had made a

medical discovery and wanted to exploit this new idea. He wanted to buy premises in the Chatham area of Kent, but was short of capital. He decided to transfer out of his NHS pension scheme and invest part of the funds in a commercial property from which he could run his business.

The remaining two-thirds were invested in a with-profit fund, which smooths investment returns in good times and bad, in order to provide a safe return for the future.

Because rents in the Chatham area vary considerably, he was able to charge himself a low rent at the start with the prospect of a substantial increase after a few years. Because the property price was low, the initial return for his pension, the

Guaranteed bonds: potential gains

	100%	99%	98%
FT-SE 100	88	144	201
S&P 500	88	144	201
Nikkei	73	120	168
Eurotrack 200	55	90	126

rent he paid, was 18 per cent.

The next client, Fiona, was in a similar position, but it was her husband, Henry, who ran his business from expensive rented accommodation and wished to reduce his rent.

We made use of Fiona's pension fund to purchase two industrial units for £40,000. Henry paid rent of £4,000 for one unit and managed to let the other for a similar sum. This gave Fiona a really good return for her pension fund,

excluding any potential capital growth, and at the same time reduced the rental cost to Henry's business by £4,000.

The next client, David, was able to retire at 50, but did not require the income, so he decided to defer payment and in order to do so made a transfer of his pension into a SIPP.

In this sort of situation I work closely with an actuary, Ian Walker, who renegotiated the value of the occupational scheme's transfer from

just over £100,000 to almost £200,000. David wanted stock market exposure but required a low risk. I recommended we should make use of guaranteed stock market bonds.

These are pension fund investments with a three-month option to discontinue. The level of risk may be chosen as either 0.1 or 2 per cent. The table (left) illustrates the potential gains for each level of risk in four different stock markets for the first three months of this year.

On a 1 per cent risk, say, if the Nikkei falls by 10 per cent during the quarter, the loss is restricted to 99 per cent of a £10,000 investment, so you only lose £100. If the market closed up 10 per cent, the value of the bond goes up 20 per cent to £12,000.

To round off the portfolio, we made use of the best performing UK smaller companies unit trusts, together with a Pacific Rim unit trust.

In addition, we used an emerging market fund which invests in other single-country investment trusts, especially when they are at a discount to net asset value. This is where the value of the underlying assets within the fund is greater than the value of the investment trust shares.

The fourth client, Norman, is a management consultant, aged 51, whose income is very variable. He had a large paid-up pension with a previous employer, which had been untouched for some six years. He wanted to pay off his mortgage and to be able to draw a variable

income from his annuity.

After a lot of argument with the insurer who ran his fund, we managed to transfer out of the occupational scheme to a personal pension on a self-invest basis, with an income withdrawal facility.

He took the maximum tax-free cash of £80,000, which he used to pay off his mortgage. The remaining funds of approximately £300,000 were invested in a mixture of funds. This allowed Norman to decide whether to draw an annual pension income of between £9,000 and £27,000. When his consultancy income was good he could draw a small pension and when his consultancy income was low he could draw a larger pension. Michael Royde can be contacted on 0171 792 3700

Best borrowing rates

Telephone	% Rate and period	Max. adv %	Fee	Incentive	Redemption penalty
MORTGAGES					
Fixed rates					
Scarborough BS	0800 580547	0.25 for 1 year	70	0.75%	—
Skipton BS	01756 700500	3.75 to 30/4/96	75	£295	Free unempl ins + 3 mths B&C ins
Bristol & West BS	0800 100117	6.99 to 28/2/01	90	£275	—
Variable rates					
Scarborough BS	0800 580547	1.09 for 1 year	95	—	£150 cash rebate
Derbyshire BS	01332 841000	3.89 for 2 years	75	£125	Free val, fee refund, £250 remortgages
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	4.44 to 1/5/99	95	—	Refund valuation fee
First time buyers fixed rates					
Bristol & West BS	0800 100117	0.95 to 31/1/97	90	£275	—
NatWest Home Loans	0800 400999	4.19 to 31/3/98	95	£145	£50 if tk's B&C taken
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	5.99 to 1/3/98	95	£295	—
First time buyers variable rates					
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	1.19 to 1/5/97	90	—	Refund valuation fee
Principality BS	01222 344188	3.60 to 1/6/98	90	—	£100 cash rebate
Coventry BS	0800 126125	5.89 to 1/5/00	95	—	£200 cash rebate

Telephone	APR	Fixed monthly payments (£3,000 over 3 years)
Unsecured		
Direct Line	0141-248 9566	14.90E
Midland Bank	0800 180180	15.40
Clydesdale Bank	0800 240024	16.2
Secured (second charge)		
Clydesdale Bank	0800 240024	8.60
Royal Bank of Scotland	Via branch	9.30
First Direct	0800 242424	9.80

Telephone	Account	Authorised % pm	APR	Unauthorised % pm	APR
Woolwich BS					
0800 400900	Current	0.76	9.5	2.18	29.5
Alliance & Leicester BS					
0500 959595	Alliance	0.76	9.5	2.20	29.8
Abbey National					
0500 200500	Current	0.79	9.9	2.18	29.5

Telephone	Card pm %	Min %	Rate fee	APR	Annual
Standard					
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	0.94G	11.80
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	1.00	14.60
Royal Bank of Scotland	0800 161616	MasterCard	—	1.14	14.50
Gold cards					
Co-operative Bank	0345 212212	Visa	£20,000	0.5208M	10.80
Royal Bank of Scotland	01702 362890	Visa	£20,000	1.05	14.50
NatWest Bank	0800 200400	Visa	£20,000	1.14	15.90

Telephone	Payment by direct debit % pm	APR	Payment by other methods % pm	APR
John Lewis				
Via store	—	—	1.39	18.00
Marks and Spencer				
01244 681681	1.87A	24.80	1.97A	26.30
Sears				
Via store	1.94	25.90	2.20	29.8

APR Annualised percentage rate.
A 1.55% (19.5% APR) for o/s bal over £1K.
E Available to comprehensive motor insurance policyholders aged over 32 years.
H Annual fee waived after first year if S&P - charged to card during previous year.
All rates subject to change without notice.

LTV Loan to value
D No interest free period
G Annual rate 5% above R Fleming base rate.
M Equivalent to base rate.
MONEYFACTS 01892 500677 29 February 1996

"Legal & General now has the best-value UK Tracker Fund PEP..."

Money Marketing, 25th November 1995.

Now we're even better value.

Legal & General can now offer PEP investors even better value. We've reduced the annual charge on our Index-Tracking PEP to only 0.5% p.a. And there are still no initial charges or withdrawal fees to pay.

Reliable performance that's hard to beat.

When it comes to performance, you'll also find us hard to beat. By tracking the FT-SE-A All-Share Index - the broadest measure of the UK stock market - we aim to provide reliable above average performance. In fact, most actively managed

MANAGEMENT CHARGES CUT TO JUST 0.5% P.A.

NO INITIAL CHARGES

NO WITHDRAWAL FEE

A NEW PEP FREE FOR A YEAR

PEPs fail to match the FT-SE-A All-Share Index with any consistency.*

A free PEP if you invest before April 5th!

If you invest in a Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP before April 5th 1996 - or transfer funds from an existing PEP - we will refund your first year's management charge on it if you also invest with us in a 1996-97 Tax Year PEP. So you could have a new PEP free for a year!

Call now on 0800 11 66 22 or return the coupon today for further information.

*Source: Maccap. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. All statements are correct as at 4.1.96. Full written details are available on request. Legal & General (Unit Trust Managers) Limited. Registered in England No. 1009461. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP. Regulated by DMO and the Personal Investment Authority.

CALL 0800 11 66 22 FREE

*7 DAYS A WEEK 8AM TO 10PM. PLEASE QUOTE REF T7247

Post to: Legal & General (Unit Trust Managers) Limited, FREEPOST KT4 474, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 4BR. Please send me full written details of the new Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____ TELEPHONE NO. _____

If you already have any PEP investment, please tick here: ☐

We never make your name and address available to unconnected organisations. We will occasionally tell you about other products or services offered by ourselves and associate Legal & General Companies. Please tick this box if you would prefer not to receive this information: ☐



trust us to deliver

PENSIONS MADE SIMPLE.

Advice you can Trust
Directly by telephone 24 hours a day

0345 6789 10

Issued by Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society, a mutual company. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Information/advice will only be provided on Scottish Widows products.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

money

A high-risk way to have fun

Invest in nightclubs with an African theme or a satirical magazine — and get tax relief. David Porter explains

Given the state of the housing market, who would dare risk investing in residential property development? Or take a stake in a new satirical magazine due to launch soon? Or buy shares in a company operating North African-themed nightclubs in southern England?

Projects like these are high risk. Not surprisingly, they offer the chance of spectacular returns if they succeed. Inevitably there is a chance they will fail. But in recent weeks investors have been invited to put cash into just such types of venture.

Taxpayers can shelter up to £100,000 in any tax year on investments qualifying for relief under the Enterprise Investment Scheme. Tax relief is at the lowest rate of tax (20 per cent), cutting the initial investment outlay to 80 per cent. Gains are tax-free if the taxpayer retains the investment for five years.

If the investment turns into a dud, losses can be set against a taxpayer's highest rate of tax. Claiming the initial tax relief is easy. The company issues tax form EIS3 to investors, who then send this to their tax office.

Tax coding is altered for PAYE taxpayers, while the self-employed, paying tax by instalments, will enjoy reduced payments. To qualify for the tax relief, taxpayers must invest at least £500 in any one EIS approved company, although companies themselves may insist on a higher minimum investment.

While tax reliefs available make high risks more palatable, investors should look carefully at each prospect. Take projected profits with a pinch of salt.

There are several essential questions investors should ask themselves. Does the company and founder have a track record? Are the costs excessive in raising up to £1m allowed per company?

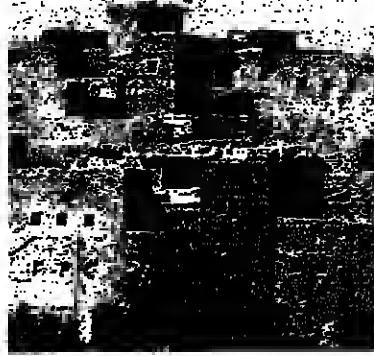
How does the investor cash in his or her investment?

Cadogan (0171 738 1961), a publisher of travel guides, is close to raising the £1m needed to buy rival David Campbell Publishers and provide working capital to expand.

DCP was founded in 1990 and made pre-interest and tax profits of £446,000 on sales of £3.7m last year. Cadogan generated profits last year of £70,000 on turnover of £1.1m.

Its EIS fund-raising will cost 7.25 per cent of the amount raised. Cadogan was initially funded through a Business Expansion Scheme, a forerunner to the EIS. Backers have seen more than a 30 per cent return on their initial investment in 1993.

The cost of the Cadogan issue compares favourably to Po Na Na, a group that operates North African-themed nightclubs. Raising £500,000 cost £70,000, although given the popular-



Coming soon to a nightclub near you: the atmosphere of Africa

ity of this issue it could have pulled in the £1m maximum permitted.

Proceeds were used to buy Po Na Na's London club, buy the management contract for Po Na Na in Oxford

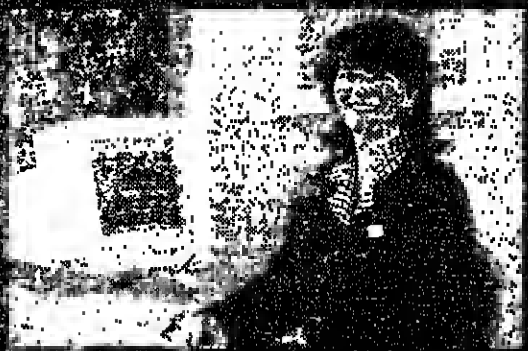
and refurbish its Cambridge premises. According to the prospectus, each club attempts to create the "warm and cosy surroundings of North African bazaars and market places."

Those who would like to be mini-media tycoons need look no further than *Insider* (0171 233 5914), a fortnightly satirical magazine launched by gossip journalist Tim Satchell.

He hopes to raise up to £240,000 at a cost of £16,400 for his publishing venture. Break-even equates to 20,000 sales per issue. It will publish on alternate weeks to *Private Eye*, the satirical magazine that sells an average of 192,000 copies.

More run of the mill are the numerous residential property schemes on offer. While investing in EIS companies can provide a lot of fun, never forget they are high risk prospects. At least with the tax advantages not all is lost when they go belly up.

Want a Corporate Bond PEP with a personality?



"You can with the Woolwich"

No initial charge until 30th April 1996.

Corporate Bond PEP. Doesn't sound very exciting, does it?

Well how does this sound?

A 6.6%* estimated yield. Not a penny to pay in tax. And the opportunity to invest in fixed interest securities issued by companies like BT, Tesco and ICI without the level of risk associated with equity shares.

There's no initial charge if you invest before 30th April 1996 and you can invest either a lump sum (minimum £500) or as little as £25 a month through our Monthly Savings Plan†. Use it to build up your capital. Or take an income. The choice is yours.

But here's the big difference. You'll know exactly who this Corporate Bond PEP is coming from — the Woolwich, a name you've known for years.

You can meet one of our friendly, helpful advisers face to face at any of our branches. They'll be happy to fill you in on the details of this or any other Woolwich investment. Alternatively, give us a call on the number below or complete and send the coupon today.

*Estimated yield based on 31st January 1996. Estimated income yield of 6.6% per annum. The first income payment where required, will be made in April 1996.

†Applicable to all monies invested into a plan before 30th April 1996. Lump sum investment minimum £500 and maximum £100,000 in any one tax year in a personal Personal Equity Plan (PEP) for each investor.

It's good to be with the **WOOLWICH** — BUILDING SOCIETY —

CALL 0800 22 22 00 FREE

To: Woolwich Building Society Customer Response Unit, Freeport 100, Kingswood House, Sackup, Kent DA14 4BL. Tel for more details of the Woolwich Corporate Bond PEP

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Telephone _____ ID 3/3/96

THE VALUE OF YOUR INVESTMENT AND INCOME EARNED IS NOT GUARANTEED AND CAN GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO FUTURE PERFORMANCE.

Woolwich Building Society is a building society and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. The value of investments and the income earned may go down as well as up. Past performance does not guarantee a similar result. The value of investments and the income earned may go down as well as up. Past performance does not guarantee a similar result. The value of investments and the income earned may go down as well as up. Past performance does not guarantee a similar result.

Best savings rates

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval	
INSTANT ACCESS						
Portman BS	01202 292444	Instant Access	Instant	£100	4.80	Year
Skipton BS	01756 700511	High Street	Instant	£2,500	5.10	Year
Co-operative Bank	0345 252000	Pathfinder	Instant	£5,000	5.37	Month
Skipton BS	01756 700511	High Street	Instant	£30,000	6.00	Year
INSTANT ACCESS POSTAL ACCOUNTS						
Bradford & Bingley BS	0345 248248	Direct Premium	Postal	£1,000	4.75	Year
West Bromwich BS	0345 374121	Direct Instant	Postal	£2,000	6.00	Year
West Bromwich BS	0345 374121	Direct Instant	Postal	£25,000	6.25	Year
West Bromwich BS	0345 374121	Direct Instant	Postal	£50,000	6.50	Year
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS						
Manchester BS	0161 834 9465	45 Day	45 day	£25,000	6.55	Year
Bradford & Bingley BS	0345 248248	Direct 90	90 day P	£15,000	6.30	Year
Alliance & Leicester BS	0116 271 7272	Prime 90 Deposit	90 day	£25,000	7.10	Year
Chelsea BS	0800 272505	120 Account	120 day	£5,000	6.50	Year
MONTHLY INTEREST						
West Bromwich BS	0345 374121	Direct Instant	Postal	£2,000	5.84	Month
West Bromwich BS	0345 374121	Direct Instant	Postal	£25,000	6.08	Month
Alliance & Leicester BS	0116 271 7272	Prime 90 Deposit	90 day	£25,000	6.30	Month
Bradford & Bingley BS	0345 248248	Direct 90	90 day P	£30,000	7.00	Month
FIXED RATE BONDS						
West Bromwich BS	0121 680 8024	Guaranteed Growth	31/1/97	£5,000	6.50F	Maturity
Cheshire BS	0800 243278	Fixed Option Bond	31/3/99	£5,000	7.00F	Year
First National BS	01232 314050	Windfall Bond	4 yr bond	£1,000	7.00F	Year
Sun Banking Corp	01488 774050	Investment Certs	5 yr bond	£1,000	6.90F	Year
HYPER ACCOUNTS						
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	Higher Rate Deposit	Instant	£1,000	5.25	3 Months
Kleinwort Benson	01202 502404	HICA	Instant	£2,500	5.50	Month
Alliance & Leicester BS	0116 271 7272	Alliance	Instant	£5,000	5.00	Month
Chelsea BS	0800 717515	Classic Postal	Instant	£25,000	5.25	Year
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
Financial Assurance	0181 380 3388		1 year	£5,000	4.70F	Year
Financial Assurance	0181 380 3388		2 year	£5,000	5.25F	Year
Financial Assurance	0181 380 3388		3 year	£5,000	5.50F	Year
Financial Assurance	0181 380 3388		4 year	£5,000	5.75F	Year
Atsley Life	01202 292373		5 year	£50,000	6.30F	Year
OFFSHORE INVEST						
Northern Rock, Guern	01481 714600	Offshore Instant	Instant	£25,000	6.70	Year
Northern Rock, Guern	01481 714600	Offshore Instant	Instant	£50,000	6.80	Year
Alliance & Leicester (IOM)	01624 663566	Investment Bond	1 yr bond	£25,000	6.95	Year
B'ham Middles, Guern	01481 700680	Fixed Account	31.1.99	£5,000	7.25F	Year
NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Investment Account			1 month	£20	5.00	Year
				£500	5.50	Year
				£25,000	5.75	Year
Income Bond			3 month	£2,000	6.50	Month
				£25,000	6.75	Month
Capital Bond	Series 1		5 year	£100	6.65 F	Maturity
First Option Bond			12 month	£1,000	6.25 F	Year
				£20,000	6.50 F	Year
Pensioner's Guaranteed Income Bond Series 3			5 year	£500	7.00 F	Month
NS Certificates (tax-free)						
43rd Issue			5 year	£100	5.35 F	Maturity
5th Index Linked			5 year	£100	2.50 + RPI	Maturity
Children's Bond	Issue H		5 year	£25	6.75 F	Maturity

P post only

F fixed rate

N not cash

All rates are shown gross and are subject to change without notice.

MONEYFACTS 01682 500677.

29 February 1996

Stop the tax man biting into your savings.

Frightening fact:

3 out of 4 of us are paying way too much tax on our savings.

Don't be one of them.

Instead, call for the Guide to

Tax-Free Savings with TSB. From then on, you'll be in safe hands.

In the past five years, TSB customers have

enjoyed a better return from a tax-free savings account than the customers of any other major high street bank.

And just think, with TSB your money could have grown by 25% in the last year.* No tax, no catch.

Stop the tax man biting into your savings.

Call TSB PhoneBank and ask for our free Guide to Tax-Free Savings with TSB.

And remember, you could make the most of your tax-free allowance

if you give us a call before April 5th.

Enticing fact: We'll also

tell you how you could win a £6,000 PEP.

CALL FREE 0500 758 400

Tax-Free Savings

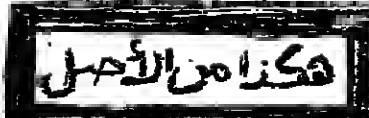
Surname: (Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms)

First Name:

Address:

Post Code:

We'd like to contact you from time to time with details about services from TSB and other TSB Group companies if we think they'd interest you. However, if you'd prefer not to be told about these services, please tick this box: ☐ Send to: TSB PhoneBank, FREEPOST (BM6334), Glasgow G2 8BR.



fast car a

MORE CASH

YOUR ENDOWMENT
SECURE MONTHLY INCOME
0181 207 1555

ASHING IN YOUR
ENDOWMENT?
EASY TO GET MONEY

0181 207 1555

Want a
high performing
low cost
pension?

A fast car and a dream home. Big mistakes

The third in our series on bad investments. By Corinne Simcock

Quentin Bell, 51, is chairman of the Quentin Bell Organisation, the PR company he started as a one-man band in 1973. Today it employs 60 people, with clients including BT, Norwich Union and Fabergé Fragrances.

In the 1980s, when QBO was growing rapidly, I was looking for alternative investments," he says. "Rather than leave the rest of my money in the bank, I started investing in things I could either look at or use.

"I have always had a love of quality cars, and when Aston Martin announced the launch of its new Virage Volante in 1989 I decided to buy one. I put down a £20,000 deposit and was given a chassis number.

"This was the time when people were playing the futures market with cars. One of the first of these new Aston Martins to come off the production line was immediately sold at auction for £50,000 more than the owner had paid.

"The Inland Revenue expects cars to depreciate, so as long as you're not trading, profit is tax-free.

"I already had an Aston Martin Volante, and I had seen its value rocket to

£120,000, so I was pretty confident.

"But by 1991 the bottom had fallen out of the car market. The car would have been worth less than I had had to pay for it. I was faced with a dilemma - either I went ahead and paid up £150,000, or I lost my £20,000 deposit.

"Have you ever seen £20,000 in notes? If you've got it sitting on a table in front of you, you tend to think, 'I don't want to lose this'. But it was the lesser of two evils, so I just had to bite my lip.

"You have to remember that this was in the Thatcher years and it was a very buoyant time when supposedly nothing could go wrong. The recession took me by surprise because human beings don't expect change. Once you are on a roll - as we were in the 80s - you expect it to continue.

"Unfortunately, in 1989 I also bought a £60,000 holiday home in southern France. It was a beautiful farmhouse but it needed a lot of money spending on it.

"I bought it on a whim. I thought it would be a good alternative investment. I had also planned to use it as a holiday home. It took me a year to refurbish it, at a cost of

around £115,000. I was flying down every weekend to do what became affectionately known as *Le Pige*. It was an hilarious scene: the plumbers and the carpenters in their berets and boiler suits would queue up around my table while I wrote out endless cheques.

"Looking back, I simply hadn't thought it through. I broke my golden rule of being focused. Fabulous though the property is, I ended up with neither a holiday home nor an investment.

"When the weather is good, the place is being let. But that only accounts for eight to ten weeks a year. I really loved doing it up. You could argue that it was extremely therapeutic, but it was a very expensive

exercise because I wasted £175,000.

"Had I put it into the Stock Exchange, I would have doubled it by now instead of sitting on a dormant asset.

"The problem with alternative investments is that emotions come into play. You start to look at expensive tiles and sofas, or cars that are wonderful to drive. And that's where everything goes wrong. Generally speaking, it is dangerous to combine investments and emotions.

"Of course life isn't easy. If all investments were going to come right, then everybody would do it. You can't succeed every time. But if you're thinking of a holiday home as an investment, don't, because it isn't."



Quentin Bell: 'Workmen would queue up while I wrote endless cheques'

IF YOU
WANT

10%^{NET}
EVERY YEAR
FOR FIVE
YEARS
RING FREE NOW

SAVE & PROSPER

The capital value of your investment can go down and will depend on the performance of the underlying fund to which your Bond is linked. The income payments could be partially derived from your capital. Therefore, there is a risk that you may not get back all of your original investment after 5 years. Tax cannot be guaranteed and may change at any time. Your value will depend on your individual circumstances. We strongly recommend that you read the brochure and Key Features which we will send to you. Save & Prosper Group Limited is regulated by the Financial Services Authority and is a member of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Services offered by the Financial and Save & Prosper Marketing Group.

MORE CASH

FOR YOUR ENDOWMENT.
CALL SEC MONEYLINE NOW
0181 207 1666.

SEC will pay you much more money than the surrender value. Don't lose out on that extra cash!

Phone now quoting advertisement ref: 102/3/96

Your policy must be at least 8 years old.

FAX: 0181 207 4950

SECURITISED ENDOWMENT CONTRACTS PLC

SEC House, 49 Theobald St, Borehamwood, Herts WD6 4BZ

SEC

If in doubt seek expert advice.

CASHING IN YOUR ENDOWMENT?

IT'S EASY TO GET MORE

We regularly pay up to 30% MORE* than the surrender value for with profits endowment and whole life policies.

Life Company Offered £8,396

Policy Portfolio Price £10,750

Don't lose out - contact Policy Portfolio Plc today.

Regulated by the Financial Services Authority

TEL: 0181 343 4567 Lines Open 24 Hours - 7 Days a Week

Gadd House, Arcadia Avenue, London N3 2JU

POLICY PORTFOLIO

Want a high performing low cost pension?

Our regular contribution with-profits pension plan appeared in the top ten in all five investment performance league tables according to a survey carried out by Money Marketing (with-profits survey, May 1995).

Of course, that's just one set of results - we'd be glad to show you our record over many years.

But having such excellent performance is what you might expect from a company that has an international reputation for keeping costs under control. In October, Money Management showed the effects of our charges in our with-profits pension to be the lowest of all the companies surveyed.

In fact, the effect of other companies' charges were, on average, 103% more, while in the worst case they were 209% more. (Source: Money Management, October 1995, £200pm 10 year personal pension plans).

So, if you would like to learn about The Equitable's high performance, low cost personal pension plan by post and by telephone, return the coupon below or call Aylesbury (01296) 38 48 58.

Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

Information/advice will only be given on Equitable group products

Regulated by the Financial Services Authority

THE EQUABLE LIFE FUND, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BEDFORDSHIRE MK20 7BR

To: The Equitable Life FUND, Walton Street, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 7BR

I would welcome details of The Equitable's pension plans. I am self-employed ☐ INCOME

I am an employee but not a company pension scheme ☐

NAME (Mr/Ms/Ms)

ADDRESS

Postcode

Tel: Office

Tel: Home

Date of Birth

The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles

THE NEW PERPETUAL INCOME AND GROWTH INVESTMENT TRUST. DON'T MISS IT.



Overall Unit Trust
Group of the Year

THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

Unit Trust

Management

Group of the Year

WHAT INVESTMENT

Best Investment

Management Group

of the Year

MICROPAL

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 12 NOON 13TH MARCH 1996.

Perpetual's new Income and Growth Investment Trust aims to produce capital growth and a higher than average income from UK companies. And it's eligible for up to £12,000 of tax-free PEP investment.

But hurry. All applications must be received by 12 noon on Wednesday, 13th March 1996.

Perpetual

To: Perpetual Portfolio Management Limited, PO Box 131, Perpetual House, 47-49 Station Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1AF. Regulated by IMRO. Please send me further details on Perpetual's Income and Growth Investment Trust.

Important: Please read carefully

Print Name (Mr/Ms/Ms)

Address

Postcode

Please remember that the value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up, and you may not get back the amount invested. Current tax levels and reliefs may change and their value will depend on your individual circumstances. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance.

going out



critics' choice

CINEMA

Casino II's over-the-top and hideously violent but Martin Scorsese's dissection of the fall of Las Vegas is redeemed by operatic visuals; a camera so alive you can feel it pulsing and a pair of magnificent performances from Robert De Niro (above) and Sharon Stone.

Leaving Las Vegas Mike Figgis's masterpiece: a gritty yet romantic tale of love and doom in Las Vegas. With Nicolas Cage, Elisabeth Shue, Heat. The leanest of plots - a cop (Al Pacino) hunts a hood (Robert De Niro) - and still you feel that the three-hour running time of Menz's mastery film could have used another hour.

Ryan Gibbey

THEATRE

The Glass Menagerie Zoe Wamaker and Claire Skinner (above) tear at the heartstrings in Tennessee Williams' masterpiece about the ties and terrors of love. Comedy Theatre, London

The Changing Room A first-rate cast of 22 kick David Storey's elegiac depiction of team spirit into spirited life in a meticulously observed production by James Macdonald. Duke of York's, London

Kiss Me Kate Cole Porter teaches you to "Brush Up Your Shakespeare" in the masterly reworking of *The Taming of the Shrew* packed to the gills with classic songs. Norwich Playhouse

David Benedict

EXHIBITIONS

The Doris Parnoff Collection is among the finest groups of Old Masters in the world. A chance to see Velázquez's *Pope Innocent X*, plus Raphael, Caravaggio (above), Breguet, Claude, Bernini, Canova. Gallery, London WC2, to 12 May

After the type, the show lives up to expectations. The final room, devoted to the *Large Bathers*, is one of the epiphanies of this gallery-going. Tate, London SW1, to 28 Apr

Georgia Starr uses videos of herself to create a personal universe: seductive and stimulating evidence of one of the newest genres in the artistic vocabulary. Tate, London SW1, to 7 Apr

John Gale

POP

Stereolab (above) still battle with their hum-worthy art-pop, umpteenth album down the line. It's a chance to catch their new keyboardist and bassist on this tour to support single "Cybele's Reverie". Bristol: Blackheath (0117 929 9008); Sun

Lightning Seeds Intelligent pop with a soft centre from Ian Broudie and Co. A pair of strong songs gained them a Brit award nomination recently. London: Kibum National (0171-287 0932); Thur

Polaris A rescheduled show for the New York-based rockers. An ear-drum-melting sonic extravaganza. London: The Grand (0171-384 0044); Mon

Angela Lewis

CLASSICAL

Sharon Isabella and her Misses in a new production of the *Three Sisters* by Anton Chekhov. The production is a collaboration with the Royal Opera House. Royal Opera House, London

Sharon Isabella and her Misses in a new production of the *Three Sisters* by Anton Chekhov. The production is a collaboration with the Royal Opera House. Royal Opera House, London

DANCE

Sharon Isabella and her Misses in a new production of the *Three Sisters* by Anton Chekhov. The production is a collaboration with the Royal Opera House. Royal Opera House, London

Sharon Isabella and her Misses in a new production of the *Three Sisters* by Anton Chekhov. The production is a collaboration with the Royal Opera House. Royal Opera House, London

DANCE

Sharon Isabella and her Misses in a new production of the *Three Sisters* by Anton Chekhov. The production is a collaboration with the Royal Opera House. Royal Opera House, London

Sharon Isabella and her Misses in a new production of the *Three Sisters* by Anton Chekhov. The production is a collaboration with the Royal Opera House. Royal Opera House, London

Arts and entertainment listings

FILM

WEST END
THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT (15) P. romantic comedy. London: 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1387, 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1440, 1441, 1442, 1443, 1444, 1445, 1446, 1447, 1448, 1449, 1450, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1457, 1458, 1459, 1460, 1461, 1462, 1463, 1464, 1465, 1466, 1467, 1468, 1469, 1470, 1471, 1472, 1473, 1474, 1475, 1476, 1477, 1478, 1479, 1480, 1481, 1482, 1483, 1484, 1485, 1486, 1487, 1488, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1492, 1493, 1494, 1495, 1496, 1497, 1498, 1499, 1500, 1501, 1502, 1503, 1504, 1505, 1506, 1507, 1508, 1509, 1510, 1511, 1512, 1513, 1514, 1515, 1516, 1517, 1518, 1519, 1520, 1521, 1522, 1523, 1524, 1525, 1526, 1527, 1528, 1529, 1530, 1531, 1532, 1533, 1534, 1535, 1536, 1537, 1538, 1539, 1540, 1541, 1542, 1543, 1544, 1545, 1546, 1547, 1548, 1549, 1550, 1551, 1552, 1553, 1554, 1555, 1556, 1557, 1558, 1559, 1560, 1561, 1562, 1563, 1564, 1565, 1566, 1567, 1568, 1569, 1570, 1571, 1572, 1573, 1574, 1575, 1576, 1577, 1578, 1579, 1580, 1581, 1582, 1583, 1584, 1585, 1586, 1587, 1588, 1589, 1590, 1591, 1592, 1593, 1594, 1595, 1596, 1597, 1598, 1599, 1600, 1601, 1602, 1603, 1604, 1605, 1606, 1607, 1608, 1609, 1610, 1611, 1612, 1613, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1617, 1618, 1619, 1620, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624, 1625, 1626, 1627, 1628, 1629, 1630, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635, 1636, 1637, 1638, 1639, 1640, 1641, 1642, 1643, 1644, 1645, 1646, 1647, 1648, 1649, 1650, 1651, 1652, 1653, 1654, 1655, 1656, 1657, 1658, 1659, 1660, 1661, 1662, 1663, 1664, 1665, 1666, 1667, 1668, 1669, 1670, 1671, 1672, 1673, 1674, 1675, 1676, 1677, 1678, 1679, 1680, 1681, 1682, 1683, 1684, 1685, 1686, 1687, 1688, 1689, 1690, 1691, 1692, 1693, 1694, 1695, 1696, 1697, 1698, 1699, 1700, 1701, 1702, 1703, 1704, 1705, 1706, 1707, 1708, 1709, 1710, 1711, 1712, 1713, 1714, 1715, 1716, 1717, 1718, 1719, 1720, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1724, 1725, 1726, 1727, 1728, 1729, 1730, 1731, 1732, 1733, 1734, 1735, 1736, 1737, 1738, 1739, 1740, 1741, 1742, 1743, 1744, 1745, 1746, 1747, 1748, 1749, 1750, 1751, 1752, 1753, 1754, 1755, 1756, 1757, 1758, 1759, 1760, 1761, 1762, 1763, 1764, 1765, 1766, 1767, 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, 1773, 1774, 1775, 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786, 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795, 1796, 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 2681, 2682, 2683, 2684, 2685, 2686, 2687, 2688, 2689, 2690, 2691, 2692, 2693, 2694, 2695, 2696, 2697, 2698, 2699, 2700, 2701, 2702, 2703, 2704, 2705, 2706, 2707, 2708, 2709, 2710, 2711, 2712, 2713, 2714, 2715, 2716, 2717, 2718, 2719, 2720, 2721, 2722, 2723, 2724, 2725, 2726, 2727, 2728, 2729, 2730, 2731, 2732, 2733, 2734, 2735, 2736, 2737, 2738, 2739, 2740, 2741, 2742, 2743, 2744, 2745, 2746, 2747, 2748, 2749, 2750, 2751, 2752, 2753, 2754, 2755, 2756, 2757, 2758, 2759, 2760, 2761, 2762, 2763, 2764, 2765, 2766, 2767, 2768, 2769, 2770, 2771, 2772, 2773, 2774, 2775, 2776, 2777, 2778, 2779, 2780, 2781, 2782, 2783, 2784, 2785, 2786, 2787, 2788, 2789, 2790, 2791, 2792, 2793, 2794, 2795, 2796, 2797, 2798, 2799, 2800, 2801, 2802, 2803, 2804, 2805, 2806, 2807, 2808, 2809, 2810, 2811, 2812, 2813, 2814, 2815, 2816, 2817, 2818, 2819, 2820, 2821, 2822, 2823, 2824, 2825, 2826, 2827, 2828, 2829, 2830, 2831, 2832, 2833, 2834, 2835, 2836, 2837, 2838, 2839, 2840, 2841, 2842, 2843, 2844, 2845, 2846, 2847, 2848, 2849, 2850, 2851, 2852, 2853, 2854, 2855, 2856, 2857, 2858, 2859, 2860, 2861, 2862, 2863, 2864, 2865, 2866, 2867, 2868, 2869, 2870, 2871, 2872, 2873, 2874, 2875, 2876, 2877, 2878, 2879, 2880, 2881, 2882, 2883, 2884, 2885, 2886, 2887, 2888, 2889, 2890, 2891, 2892, 2893, 2894, 2895, 2896, 2897, 2898, 2899, 2900, 2901, 2902, 2903, 2904, 2905, 2906, 2907, 2908, 2909, 2910, 2911, 2912, 2913, 2914, 2915, 2916, 2917, 2918, 2919, 2920, 2921, 2922, 2923, 2924, 2925, 2926, 2927, 2928, 2929, 2930, 2931, 2932, 2933, 2934, 2935, 2936, 2937, 2938, 2939, 2940, 2941, 2942, 2943, 2944, 2945, 2946, 2947, 2948, 2949, 2950, 2951, 2952, 2953, 2954, 2955, 2956, 2957, 2958, 2959, 2960, 2961, 2962, 2963, 2964, 2965, 2966, 2967, 2968, 2969, 2970, 2971, 2972, 2973, 2974, 2975, 2976, 2977, 2978, 2979, 2980, 2981, 2982, 2983, 2984, 2985, 2986, 2987, 2988, 2989, 2990, 2991, 2992, 2993, 2994, 2995, 2996, 2997, 2998, 2999, 3000, 3001, 3002

staying in



Television

by Gerard Gilbert

Radio

by Robert Hanks

Monday Under Exposed 7.30pm BBC2. A student who collects unsorted holiday snaps, and a woman with more than 4,000 wedding photos, talk to Muriel Gray (above) in a new series about photographs, great and everyday (549). Eleven Men Against Eleven 9pm C4. Another chance to see Andy Hamilton's hilarious and (semi) topical soccer comedy starring Timothy West and James Bolam (1062704). Film: A Kiss Before Dying (James Dearden 1991 US) 10.10pm BBC1. Matt Dillon and Sean Young noir it up (2882452).

Tuesday Without Walls 9pm C4. Miles Kingdon goes in search of the ultimate holy relic, Christ's foreskin, and Tony Parsons lectures on gender differences (97653). Murder One 9.10pm BBC2 (above). More LA Law than NYPD Blue. Steven Bochco does it. Continuing: BBC 2's soccer comedy starring Timothy West and James Bolam (1062704). Film: The Accused (Jonathan Kaplan 1988 US) 10.30pm BBC1. Jodie Foster is the raped waitress, Kelly McGillis the DA who takes up her case (3469308).

Wednesday Modern Times 9pm BBC2. A series of vignettes with the story of lower-class life in London brought out by the movements and actions of the crowd that move through the city's streets (158075). Film: The English Patient (Michael Jackson 1996 US) 10.30pm BBC1. A love story set in the heart of this century, starring a handsome Canadian and a beautiful woman (158075).

Thursday The English Patient (Michael Jackson 1996 US) 10.30pm BBC1. A love story set in the heart of this century, starring a handsome Canadian and a beautiful woman (158075).

Friday The English Patient (Michael Jackson 1996 US) 10.30pm BBC1. A love story set in the heart of this century, starring a handsome Canadian and a beautiful woman (158075).

Sunday television and radio

BBC1

7.30 Children's BBC. Jim Henson's Animal Show. 7.55 Playdays.

8.15 Suenos - World Spanish (6432970).

8.30 Breakfast with Frost (74845).

9.30 Season of Change (S) (9530086).

10.15 See Hear (S) (309796).

10.45 The French Experience (S) (3815777).

11.00 Hidden Empire (R) (S) (2425).

11.30 My Brilliant Career. Gerald Rafter (S) (3154).

12.00 Countryfile (S) (49715).

12.30 On the Record. Peter Lilley (S) (5241).

1.30 EastEnders Omnibus (S) (7622785).

2.55 Escape to Victory (John Huston 1981 US). Professional actors (Michael Caine, Sylvester Stallone, Max von Sydow) mix it up with professional footballers (including Pele) in suitably daft. Boys Own adventure about WWI forced to take part in exhibition match in World War II Paris, and plotting escape (53629406).

4.45 Take That - Everything Changes. As the nation absorbs news of their disbandment, Andi Peters charts the rise of the Fab Five (S) (7814609).

5.20 The Clothes Show (S) (1733048).

5.45 News. Weather. (765609).

6.05 Regional News (106593).

6.10 Songs of Praise. Hymns from Gateshead Stadium (S) (463930).

6.45 Antiques Roadshow. From Mansfield (717609).

7.30 Ballykissangel. 4/6. It's Father Cluirke's birthday (S) (778244).

8.20 Birds of a Feather. A repeat edition of the Essex girl sitcom, presumably picked to complement - or soften, even - Pauline Quirke's radical new direction in The Sculptress (R) (S) (385628).

8.50 News. Weather. (765609).

9.05 The Sculptress. A four-part episode of the thriller starring Pauline Quirke (and a lot of prosthetic make-up) as a woman doing life for murder, who is believed to be innocent by the reporter who's writing a book about the case (S) (745319).

9.55 Ruby Wax Meets... Burt Reynolds (S) (466777).

10.20 How to Be a Little S* (S) (797628).

10.30 Heart of the Matter. Same-sex marriages contemplated (387390).

11.10 The Couch Trip (Michael Ritchie 1988 US). Dan Aykroyd plays an escaped mental patient who impersonates a radio phone-in shrink in this shakedown comedy (905593).

12.45 The Sky at Night (S) (2623810).

1.05 Weather. 9.55pm. Wales to Plymouth. 10.25 Ruby Wax Meets... 10.50 Heart of the Matter. 11.30 Film: The Couch Trip. 1.05 The Sky at Night. 1.25 News. 11.30 Film: Flight of the Navigator.

BBC2

6.15 Open University: Pure Maths: Isomorphism (9181951). 6.40 Maths Methods (6391777).

7.05 Developing World (S) (24135). 7.30 Biology (4717203). 7.55 Maarten Van Heerleker: Humanism and Painting (1252661). 8.20 Death and Dying: One Fact, Many Facets (4054319).

8.45 Child Development (6512338).

9.10 Children's BBC: Jackanory. 9.25 Phantom 2040. 9.50 Highly Suspense. 10.15 Gormley Hill. 10.40 The Art and Dec Show. 11.05 Sport Change.

11.30 Top Score. Introducing children to opera. Jeremy Guscott looks at La Bohème (S) (4972845).

11.45 Star Trek (R) (S) (405093).

12.35 Police Squad (R) (7467203).

1.00 Singled Out (24462835).

1.25 Holiday Outings. Torquay (37475999).

1.30 Regional Programmes (74999).

2.00 The Vanishing Paradise. The game birds - not Alan (R) (6343319).

2.20 King of Kings (Nicholas Ray 1961). Cinemascope life of Christ, starring Jeffrey Hunter as Himself, and Slobodan McKenna as Mary. Watch out for Rip Torn (Artie in The Larry Sanders Show) as Judas (S) (5158115).

4.55 Rugby Special. Yesterday's Five Nations matches (S) (9075715).

5.55 Natural World. The wildlife of Costa Rica's Pacific coast (422609).

6.45 The Big Trip. Our three pairs of back-packers reach Malaysia, Havana and Senegal (S) (708931).

7.30 Wheeler on America. Charles Wheeler remembers Watts in 1965. Jesse Jackson's bids for the Presidency, and a meeting with Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan (S) (578226).

8.20 The Money Programme. Wonders whether the predicted boom in organic food sales and production (S) (907116).

9.00 Give Anderson is Our Man In... the Bronx. See Preview (S) (567628).

9.40 Cricket World Cup. Highlights from Pakistan vs England (S) (19553).

10.40 Honkytonk Man (Clint Eastwood 1982 US). Eastwood casts himself as an ill, ageing and talent-free Depression-era country singer making a last pilgrimage to Nashville with his nephew (actually, Eastwood's son, Kyle) (98697048).

12.40 Weather. 7.30pm. Wales to Plymouth. 10.25 Ruby Wax Meets... 10.50 Heart of the Matter. 11.30 Film: The Couch Trip. 1.05 The Sky at Night. 1.25 News. 11.30 Film: Flight of the Navigator.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV 6.00 The Sunday Review. 6.30 News and Sport. 7.00 The Sunday Programme (30999).

8.00 Disney Club. Danni Minogue, ex-Exeter songstress Louise and 2 Point 4 Children actor John Pickard are in the studio (S) (3559796).

10.15 Link. The double discrimination faced by being a woman and disabled (3231614).

10.30 Sunday Makers. 11.00 Morning Worship from The Drive Methodist Church, Sevenoaks (S) (92512).

12.30 Cresset (62154).

1.00 News. Weather (48065222).

1.10 Jonathan Dimbleby. Interviews Labour deputy leader John Prescott (S) (6262661).

2.00 Yesterday's Heroes. Duncan McKenzie and Liam Brady (4048).

2.30 The Jacksons: An American Dream (Lawrence Jones 1992 US). The story of the Jackson Five, beginning with the family's impoverished roots in the early 1950s, and ending in 1984 (shame). Angela Bassett plays motherfucker Katherine. Angela Bassett plays motherfucker Katherine (S) (577262).

3.30 The London Programme (38).

6.00 London Tonight (315154).

6.20 News. Weather (679864).

6.35 A League of Their Own (Penny Marshall 1992 US). Highly entertaining yarn set during World War II, where a shortage of men means that women's baseball fills the stadiums. Tom Hanks is the (initially) unpleasant manager of a team including Geena Davis, Lori Petty and Madonna (S) (96216951).

8.50 News. Weather (319845).

9.10 Band of Gold. The girls are back. See Preview (S) (659319).

10.10 Crocker 2/3. Continuing the re-run story with Robert Carlyle as the Taxi Driver-style psycho Albie (R) (S) (821999).

11.10 The New Statesman. The first-ever series of the Rik Mayall sitcom begins a rerun (R) (981715).

11.40 Sledge Hammer (554845).

12.10 Proudly We Suffer (Lionel Chetwynd 1989 US). Timely, but botched, thriller about US neo-fascists. Stars Edward Herrmann and David Soul (593549).

1.55 Cue the Music. George Farnie in concert (6284568).

3.00 The Dog Who Stopped the War (Andre Mathevan 1994 Can). Apparently beguiling comedy about a snowball fight that ends in a neighbourhood war. A Saint Bernard brings peace - hence the title (403033).

4.35 Shift (R) (6861384).

5.30 News (S) (6555). To 6.00am.

Channel 4

6.25 Trans World Sport (R) (7756593).

7.20 Take 5 (S) (5121048).

7.50 The Magic School Bus (S) (1288086).

8.15 Hong Kong Phooey (6425680).

8.30 Stunt Dances (6502951).

8.55 Biker Mice from Mars (R) (6521086).

9.20 The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777).

9.50 Earthworm Jim (S) (5728864).

10.15 Saved by the Bell (S) (1025777).

10.40 Wise Up (S) (4311661).

11.15 NBA Raw. Basketball action from the Supersonics and the Detroit Pistons (341932).

12.15 Mission Impossible (638970).

1.15 Board Stupid (674512).

1.45 Football Italia. Lazio vs Internazionale (52765574).

4.00 Where Do We Go from Here (Gregory Raitoff 1945 US). A genre sends Fred MacMurray back in time through US history for some long-forgotten, contemporary reason. The musical score is by Kurt Weill and Ira Gershwin (98406).

5.30 Hollywood (R) (S) (80).

6.00 12.01 (Jack Sholder 1993 US). Jonathan Silverman finds himself reliving the same day over and over. Groundhog Day without the laughs, basically - but imaginatively and compellingly filmed (S) (8257661).

7.45 Tangled Web. Julian Clary visits LA (578241).

8.00 World. The liberal Russian TV channel.

NTV, and the infamous French broadcasting quota, that insists 40 per cent of music played must be French. And we envy them their culture (S) (5154).

8.30 My Generation. The Small Faces, appreciated by the likes of Paul Weller and Noel Gallagher (R) (S) (4661).

9.00 Waterland (Stephen Gyllenhaal 1992 UK). Graham Swift's poetic Fenland novel reduced by having one eye on the US market - and in this case that one eye too many. Jeremy Irons is the authorial voice, a history teacher whose lessons turn into personal memories of his childhood in East Anglia. Sinead Cusack, Ethan Hawke and Lena Headey (who plays an S&M specialist in tonight's Band of Gold) co-star (S) (74331883).

10.45 Alien Womans. The Setting of a Serial Killer. Nick Broomfield goes in search of the world's first female serial killer (R) (17193319).

12.20 Hunger. Computer animation (5920384).

12.35 Shaheed (Ramesh Saigal 1948 India). Made shortly after Independence, this tale looks at the relationship between a maverick in the Imperial civil service and his freedom-fighter son (18713100).

3.20 Four Minutes. Two Hans Richter animations (42574988). To 3.40am.

ITV/Regions

As London except: 2.00am Countryfile (6432970). 2.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 11.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 12.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 1.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 2.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 3.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 4.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 5.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 6.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 7.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 8.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 9.30am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (2745777). 10.30am The Secret

PROFILE: Benjamin Netanyahu

Israel's opposition leader has seen his political prospects improve this week, reports Patrick Cockburn

Benjamin Netanyahu, universally known as Bibi, is on his best behaviour. The suicide bombs that exploded in Jerusalem and Ashkelon last Sunday, killing 23 Israelis, have certainly saved Israel's opposition leader from humiliating defeat in the forthcoming elections and could make him Prime Minister in three months' time. In the days since the bombings, he has oozed moderation, urging restraint and promising not to exploit the tragedy for his own Likud party's advantage.

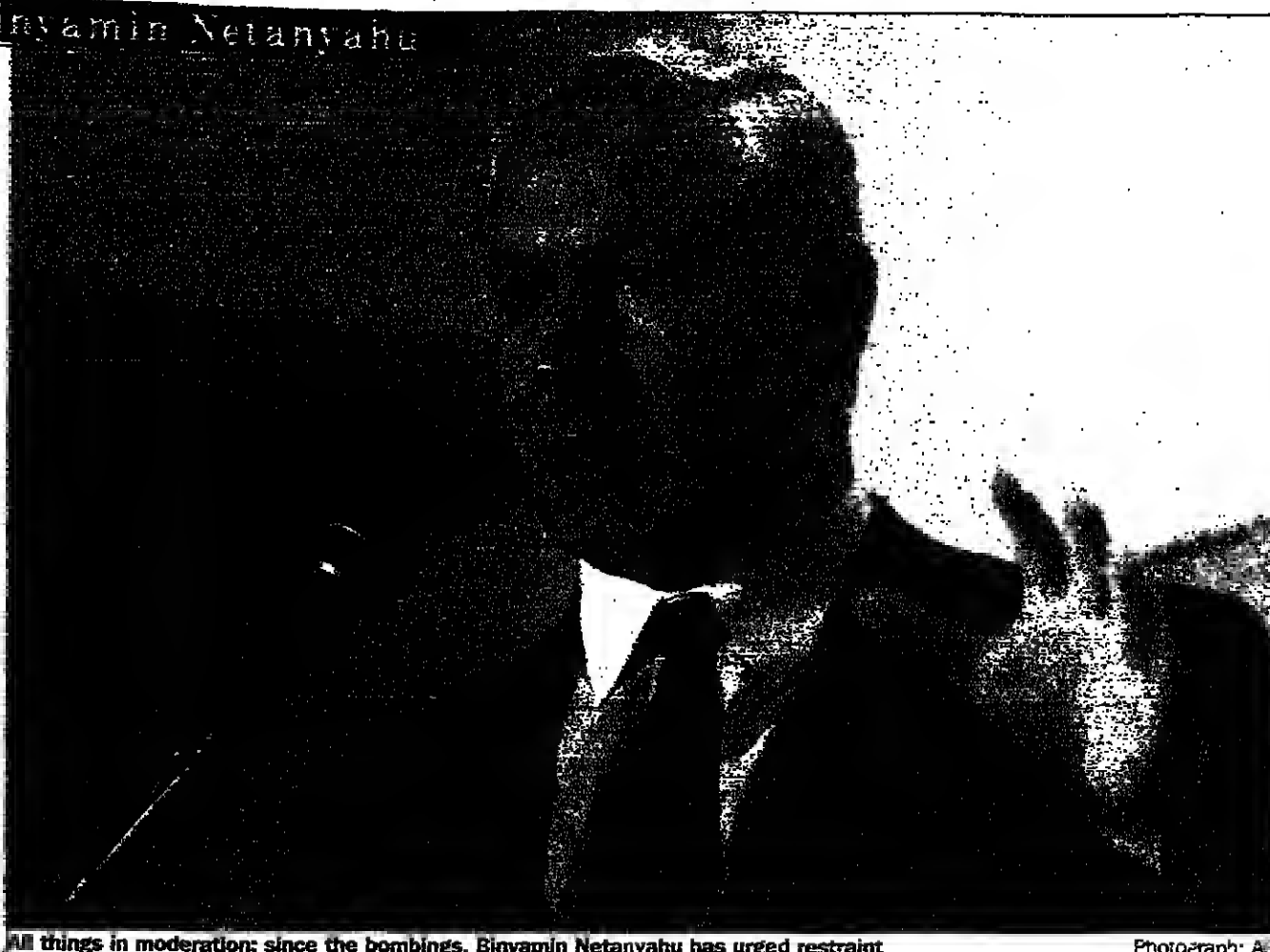
He does not have to. Shimon Peres, the Labour Prime Minister, is already badly wounded by the bombings. "Another three more attacks like this and Peres loses the elections," says one of the government's advisers. "There is no strategy that can counter exploding buses. Bibi appeals to Israelis in the way Pat Buchanan appeals to Americans. When the gut speaks, Bibi can smile."

Newt Gingrich, the speaker of the House, might be a better parallel. He and Mr Netanyahu share the same soundbite fluency. Both are sure in attack and defence and have been despised and underestimated by their numerous enemies as successful opportunists short on real policies. Mr Netanyahu has none of Buchanan's social populism but shares his ability to tap into the voters' anxieties. And there is no doubt what makes the Israeli voter anxious at the moment; he fears that the Oslo accords, agreement with the Palestinians, have made his life more dangerous rather than safer. Across Israel last week, parents were walking or driving their children to school rather than allowing them to take a bus. Suddenly, Mr Netanyahu's claim that he can deliver "peace with security" looked very attractive. He says it is possible to beat suicide bombers - though he does not disclose how - and, if elected, he would go on talking to the Palestinians, though he will refuse to meet Yasser Arafat.

These policies may be contradictory, but polls show that so are the views of the Israeli voter. But Mr Netanyahu has to be very cautious. He only just survived the moment last November when Leah Rabin nearly refused to shake his hand at her assassinated husband's funeral. "It's too late," she said to him, as she finally extended her arm. She meant that it was too late for him to express regrets for his part in creating a climate of violence in the months before Mr Rabin was murdered. Mr Netanyahu tried to brush off her remarks by saying she was distraught, but he was politically badly damaged.

His new caution was visible last week. A year ago, Mr Netanyahu would probably have visited the scorched wreckage of Bus 18, in which 23 Israelis died, and made some outspoken criticisms of the government. Instead, he stayed away and his comments were mild, saying suicide bombers did not distinguish between Likud and Labour voters. The election is not until 29 May and, as the emotional reaction to the bombs dies away, he does not want to be charged once again with irresponsibility. Paraded by his plunge in the polls, Labour is gearing up for an attack on Mr Netanyahu's character.

It has plenty of ammunition, though it has not proved very effective in the past. Labour



All things in moderation: since the bombings, Benjamin Netanyahu has urged restraint

Photograph: AP

Can Bibi beat the suicide bombers?

will contrast Mr Netanyahu's youth - he is only 46 - and experience with that of Shimon Peres, 72, who was running the Israeli Defence Ministry when Mr Netanyahu was a baby. If elected, he will be the first Israeli leader not to have taken part in the 1948 war of independence. The son of a distinguished historian, who specialises in Jewish history in Spain in the Middle Ages, he is very much the creature of the Israel that developed after the 1967 war.

'He appeals in the way Pat Buchanan appeals to Americans. When the gut speaks, Bibi can smile'

Benjamin Netanyahu spent five years as a commando, but his family's reputation for military prowess stems from his brother, Jonathan, who died leading the Israeli raid to free prisoners on a hijacked plane at Entebbe in 1976. Bibi's political career took off in the Eighties, the Likud's years of success. His rise into the Israeli political elite took place in the US, where he took a degree in architecture and business administration and was then number two at the Israeli embassy in Washington.

In 1984, he became Israeli ambassador to the UN, a role in which he was in constant demand on US television. He speaks perfect English, in a rich, beguiling voice that is particularly

effective on television. Good-looking, with intense, darting eyes, he is also an effective platform performer, though he gives the impression that he has seldom had to face hard questioning. He is the author of several books, though they have a glib, propagandist quality and have done little for his reputation.

From the beginning of his political career, Mr Netanyahu has proved accident-prone but also apparently unsinkable. He appeared on

television to confess to being unfaithful to his third wife, Sarah. There was talk of a "hot video" circulating which proved Mr Netanyahu was having an affair. In the campaign for the Likud leadership in 1993 - after the party's shock election defeat the previous year - he went on television to accuse "a gang of criminals" of trying to blackmail him over a sexual escapade. The implication was that David Levy, his opponent for the Likud leadership, was involved. Mr Netanyahu claimed he had clear proof, a charge that turned out to be wholly untrue and for which he apologised - but only after he had won the leadership contest.

He did nothing to stop David Levy leav-

ing Likud to form his own party, though this year he is prepared to pay a heavy price to woo him back. It is a measure of the hatred generated by Mr Netanyahu's vicious campaigning that for three years Mr Levy has refused to mention his name and cuts him dead if he sees him in the Knesset, the Israeli parliament.

Throughout this period, Mr Netanyahu was catching up with Mr Rabin in the polls. The suicide bomb attacks on targets in the heart of Israel in 1994 and 1995 made all Israelis feel vulnerable. Mr Netanyahu decided to bet heavily on the settlers of the West Bank and the extreme right, both totally opposed to the Oslo peace deal. He and his entourage mocked warnings that things might get out of hand, leaving him deeply vulnerable when Yigal Amir assassinated Mr Rabin on 4 November.

The suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Ashkelon mean that Mr Netanyahu can return to the policy that served him well for two years. His expression is likely to be more moderate. He now leaves it unclear if he opposes or accepts the Oslo accords. He says he "would not send back the tanks" into autonomous Palestinian areas, but implies that the government should cancel its withdrawal from Hebron. It may be difficult to maintain this ambiguity for three months, and Israeli voters could come to feel that if Mr Netanyahu wins, the likelihood is more suicide bombs rather than less.

Why we must be stewards of our soil

Managing this neglected resource is vital to our future, says John Houghton

Soil, air and water are the three essentials for life on land. But environmental policies have often taken soil for granted. Soil is of vital importance because we use it to produce our food. It is also an integral part of the landscapes and habitats we value so highly in the countryside.

In our report *Sustainable Use of Soil*, published this week, the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution set out to establish whether the effects would be sustainable if current human activities that affect soils, and present trends, continued unchanged for the next 100 years.

Sustainability in the use of soils does not mean avoiding all changes, or trying to restore damaged soils to some pristine state. But it implies that human activities ought not to deplete resources of soil at a faster rate than these can be replenished by natural processes or human intervention. We must be careful not to cause lasting damage to the natural resilience of soils, about which we have little understanding.

At global levels there are extensive areas degraded by over-exploitation and mismanagement. Within the next 20 years the world will probably begin to run out of land that can be brought into agricultural use. It will also be increasingly difficult to meet the rising demands for water. Feeding the world's growing population may be made considerably harder by climate change.

The UK has fertile soils and there is no widespread damage of the kind apparent in many other countries. The UK might have to become more self-sufficient in food in the 21st century - we might even become a net exporter of food. That makes our own resources of soil even more precious.

The Royal Commission believes that there ought to be an explicit policy to protect soil. Our central recommendation is that the Government should draw up and implement such a policy. The aim will be to ensure that the use made of soils for all purposes is the optimal sustainable use.

The pressure on UK soils comes not only from agriculture, but extraction of peat and other minerals, from con-

tamination caused by industrial operations, from various forms of waste disposal, from atmospheric pollution and, last but not least, from urbanisation. The continuing transfer of substantial amounts of rural land to urban uses, especially in fertile lowland areas and areas of high aesthetic value, is a major threat to the sustainable use of soil resources. Already, built-up areas and roads cover one-eighth of England. If such growth were to continue at what was the average annual rate between 1945 and 1990, more than a fifth of England would be covered by built-up areas and roads by the end of the next century.

The solution must lie in recycling previously developed land for new uses. This depends on removing any contamination that would be an obstacle to re-use. At the present rate of remediation however it could take 100 years to remediate soil on the contaminated sites that now exist. We need to find ways of harnessing marketing forces to help achieve more effective recycling based on the best practicable environmental option. But this will not be achieved by market forces alone, and we recommend a more pro-active approach by government agencies.

Wise stewardship of soils is almost always in the direct interests of farmers. But government departments must do more to ensure that they have adequate advice about soil conservation. A welcome development is integrated farming systems that optimise inputs of pesticides and fertilisers, and employ techniques such as crop rotation and natural pest and disease control.

The new Environmental Agencies have a very important role in making up for the previous neglect of soils. Their new functions in relation to contaminated land should be brought into effect as soon as possible. The other legislation applying to them should be reviewed within three years to ensure that they seek the best practicable environmental option in all their activities.

Sir John Houghton is Chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution

Singers who bring the House down

Two more stars have left Covent Garden in the lurch. But they have good reason, says Peter Popham

Following its six-week display of dirty laundry courtesy of the BBC's documentary cameras, the Royal Opera House had another embarrassment on its hands this week when the sensational Welsh bass-baritone Bryn Terfel withdrew from its forthcoming production of Strauss's *Arabella*, which opens on 27 March. This in itself might have been supportable had it not come hard upon the announcement three weeks ago that the show's other star, Amanda Roocroft, was also pulling out.

It was inevitably being described as a "double whammy" for the House. The casting had filled opera-lovers with delicious anticipation. In Strauss's opera, the eponymous *Arabella*, daughter of a dissolute count, and the dashing Croatian landlord Mandryka, who falls in love with her, are both young parts; the emotions that wrack them are callow, barely post-pubescent. But Strauss's score is of such difficulty that the roles are normally tackled by singers well into middle age. In Terfel and Roocroft, the ROH had succeeded in capturing two singers with soaring reputations and voices big enough for the challenge, who were also just about young enough - they are both 30 - to sing the Mills-and-Bonnie-ish libretto with a degree of plausibility. It was also going to be the first time they had sung together, a "dream-team debut".

Now Covent Garden has lost them both. And it comes in the wake of the painfully public let-downs the House had to put up with during the documentary series *Deuce Craves Pulling Out of Camera* after one performance with a sore throat, and *Jeffrey Black in Fiddler* having to be replaced at the last minute by a singer, Thomas Allen, who had never even clapped eyes on the set or conductor before he went on stage. To the outsider it looks like carelessness or worse - a bad habit. The House keeps on giving these youngsters their big breaks; for its pains, it keeps getting its face slapped. Most astonishingly of all to the non-opera-going lay per-



Perfectionist: Welsh bass-baritone Bryn Terfel (right) decided to withdraw

Photograph: Laurie Lewis

son, there seems to be no comeback, no show-down in court. The House smiles sweetly and turns the other cheek. "They've been absolutely wonderful about it," trilled Doreen O'Neill, Terfel's agent, yesterday.

Why can opera singers get away with the sort of apparent caprice that in other industries, in today's grim business climate, would lead without much delay to termination of the relationship?

The essential reason is because in most cases it is not caprice. Pavarotti is notorious for cancelling performances at short notice but nobody has given him his cards. Correction - Ardis Kravitz, director of the Chicago Lyric Opera, did just that in 1989, sack-

ing him publicly and in perpetuity for reneging on 24 out of 41 scheduled performances. But that was one particularly iron-willed American. There are few others in the opera world with that sort of style.

Terfel has gone down so sensationally in America that he has been lumbered with the awful nickname "Taffy-rotti". But he has yet to develop an ego to match the nickname, and neither he nor Roocroft has a reputation for leaving opera houses in the lurch. Terfel's work schedule, however, helps to explain why opera fans around the world are increasingly being disappointed by their favourite stars.

Terfel made his debut at the Salzburg Festival in 1992, and, after

singing at New York's Metropolitan Opera House two years later, his career took off like a rocket - he is now booked solid through 1999 and his agent is taking reservations for well into the next century.

It is natural that the world's opera houses should want to get their claws into the up-and-coming stars good and early; but it is equally natural, nay inevitable, that Bryn Terfel cannot be sure what his circumstances will be two, three, four or seven years hence. Terfel is currently singing the role of Nick Shadow in Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* with the Welsh National Opera. His agent explains that "He didn't realise until he sang it on stage what a demanding role it was going to

be. He's learnt all the part of *Mansueta* [in *Arabella*], but he felt that he wouldn't do full justice to it, and as he's a perfectionist, rather than give it 90 per cent, he decided to withdraw."

Amanda Roocroft's excuse is even better. Two years ago, when she signed up for *Arabella*, she couldn't have known that four months before it was to open she was going to have a baby; nor that, following the birth, she would have such a struggle to rebuild her strength. "It's not because she wanted to be indulged as a new mother," the press office at Covent Garden insists, "but she needs more time to build up her stamina."

The scathing reviews that followed her Wignmore Hall recital last month (after she had already announced that she was pulling out of *Arabella*) will have convinced her she made the right decision.

Covent Garden, like other opera houses in similar situations, is left to scabble around for last-minute substitutes, paying top dollar for names (such as the American soprano Cheryl Studer, who replaces Roocroft) that will keep the box office busy. But the Royal Opera is not too desperately in need of our sympathy. For all the moaning about unfairness that preceded the showing of *The House*, the documentary series has done Covent Garden enormous good in terms of public interest: requests to join the mailing list have poured in, and ticket sales are up.

Whatever the backstage controversies the programme exposed, it also revealed the true glamour and excitement of an opera house's work, which has nothing to do with tedious arguments about elitism. Now the dramatic comings and goings of famous principals help to keep that memory fresh. And when the action on stage is as clunky and contrived as that provided by Strauss's *Arabella*, a few off-stage fixations can only help to keep the place alive.

TEST DRIVE YOUR BRAIN



WALK | | NEXT
ZERO | | CALF
EVEN | | ADDS
KNIT | | INTO
CLAD | | FLEE
KERB | | YELP
GERM | | ROAD

On each line place a letter in the space which, when substituted for the first letter of the word either side, will form another word in each case. The seven letters used will give another word reading downwards. What is it?

'Get the answer right and we will send you a Mensa Challenge Certificate'

The answer is - - - - -
If you can solve this puzzle you could be eligible to join Mensa the high IQ society.
Cut the coupon for further details and a copy of the self-administered test.
Post to: Mensa, FREEPOST, Wolverhampton, WV2 1BR

Name _____
Address _____
Post Code _____

Mensa

obituaries/gazette

Pierre Verger

Pierre Verger first made his name as one of the co-founders of Alliance Photo, an agency of independent photographers in France during the early 1930s. It included such famous names as Henri Cartier-Bresson, André Kertész, Man Ray, Pierre Boucher and Robert Capa. From then on, for the rest of his life, Verger worked primarily as a freelance photo-journalist addicted to travelling.

Pierre Boucher introduced him to the art of photography. In 1932. At the same time he also experienced what might now be called a slightly early "mid-life crisis". Finding the idea of ageing degrading and useless, he decided to leave this world when he reached 40. This left him 10 years, every one of which was to be lived fully and with no compromises either with money or social ambition.

He decided to give up the parochial life of Paris and his rather boring work in the family printing firm and to travel the world, with little baggage and a trusty Rollei camera. For the next 50 years he took some 65,000 photos for a large variety of publishers. He has over 60 other publications to his name, and in 1982 published *Fifty Years of Photography*, a photographic autobiography.

In 1934 he met George Henri Riviere, then Assistant Director of the Musée de

l'Homme, who was about to set up an ethnographic exhibition on the South Sea Islands. As Verger had just returned from there, Riviere was able to use many of his photographs. A life-long friendship developed, and as Verger became more ethnographer than photo-journalist so his association with the Musée de l'Homme continued and grew until well into the 1980s.

A chance contact in 1934 with the *Daily Mirror* earned him enough money to visit black Africa. He journeyed across the Sahara to Togo, where he developed a deep contact with the Yoruba people. The *Mirror* evidently liked his work and offered him a lucrative contract for the exclusive rights; but Verger refused, in spite of a precarious financial situation, because he could not bear to give up his freedom.

The following year he was asked by Paul Hartman, a well-known French publisher, to illustrate a book on Spain. He had recently completed a photographic tour of Andalusia which suited Hartman admirably. In 1937 his pictures were included in the book *South Sea Islands*. The same year he covered the Sino-Japanese war for *Ce Soir*, photographing the siege of Shanghai and the evacuation of the Chinese; he also recorded an interview with General Chiang Kai-shek.

In 1938, still worried by the idea of dying at 40, he calculated that he had only 1,500 more days to live. He bought a tape measure 1.5m long and resolved to cut off 1mm per day as a constant reminder of his mortality, and to give him the necessary boost to "get on" with his life and interests.

In Mexico when the Second World War was declared, he travelled the following year to Dakar and was drafted into a photographic unit of the French army. Dakar provided him with two important future contacts: his old friend Bernard Maupou,

who happened to be an expert on Yoruba Divination Systems, and Théodore Monod, then Director of the Institut Français d'Afrique Noire (Ifan).

Demobilised, in 1941 Verger went to South America, where he worked for *Argentine Libre* and the moving *El Mundo Argentino*. Moving to Paris the following year, he spent 1942-46 as photographer at the National Museum, Lima. When the last millimetre was left on his "life" tape he read Lin Yu Tang's *The Importance of Living*, which changed his mind about continuing to live.

The urge to travel and "move on" remained. At Bahia in Brazil, Verger felt a close affinity with the Yoruba/African population's culture. He was encouraged by Professor Roger Bastide of Sao Paulo University to pursue the ethnology of black Africa in the Old and New World.

In 1948, in Bahia, Verger met Dona Senhora, a senior priestess of the Yoruba Oshun cult. She saw him as the "Go-Between", a messenger between the religions of the old and new world. He was subsequently inducted into the Yoruba cult of Sango, the Thunder God. His interest in the religious life of the Yoruba grew into a passion which was to illuminate his entire life.

In Ketou, Dahomey (now Benin), in 1952, Verger was fully initiated into the Yoruba religion and given the name "Fatumbi". He also became a "Babalawo" ("father of secrets", a senior official's rank) of the Ifa divination cult. This gave him a unique insight into the society he loved – and a tremendous responsibility not to reveal the priest's rites. On a recent visit to the School for Oriental and African Studies at London University, he told the students: "If you want to become anthropologists, don't ever ask questions – just sit down and listen."



Fishermen at Belem, Brazil: a 1947 photograph by Verger. From J.L. Pivin, *The Go-Between*, 1993

The academic world was beginning to take an interest in his work – Ifan gave him scholarships, demanding some form of publication in return, and he received a doctorate for his thesis on the slave trade; in 1975 the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris (CNRS) offered him a directorship. Despite these honours he still referred to his academic colleagues as "colourless parrots".

My first work with Pierre Verger was in 1968 when he asked me to help design the dis-

plays for a museum of the slave trade in Porto Novo, Dahomey. Our long friendship was recently reinforced with the publication of his last major work, a 762-page volume on the use of plants in Yoruba society, entitled *Ewe* ("leaves" in Yoruba), whose texts were collected over 40 years. It is illustrated by his lifelong friend Carybé, and I designed a typeface for the Yoruba language. Verger's brother priests in Bahia told him that he "could not die – the gods would not let him" until it was completed, which it was in November 1995. It has been prepared in Yoruba, Portuguese, English and French versions.

The Pierre Verger Foundation at Bahia in Brazil was inaugurated in March 1988 to create a study centre for all material – texts, recordings and photographs – related to the interconnected cultures of West Africa and Brazil.

Doig Simmonds

Pierre (Fatumbi) Verger, photographer and anthropologist: born Paris 4 November 1902; died Bahia, Brazil 11 February 1996.

Professor Gordon Cherry

Gordon Cherry was a leading figure in the scholarly study of town planning. He made a significant and lasting contribution to the evolution of planning both as an academic discipline and as an area of public policy which has profound effects on people and the environment.

His work is typified by a determination to interpret the present and shape the future through an understanding of the past: geography, history, economics, politics and town planning all contribute. To present-day students this may seem almost self-evidently appropriate; that in itself is a tribute to the methodology Cherry pioneered through his research and writing.

A native of Burslem – and always proud of his Yorkshire origins – he read Geography at Queen Mary College, London, graduating in 1953. After National Service he entered local government, working in city planning departments in Durham, Hull, Doncaster, Sheffield and finally, in 1963, Newcastle upon Tyne where, under Wilfred Burns and Kenneth Galley, his research began to flourish. It was here that he prepared the material for his first book, *Town Planning in its Social Context* (1970).

A chance meeting with Professor Barry Cullingworth in 1968 led Cherry to accept an invitation to become Senior Lecturer and Deputy Director of the Centre of Urban and Regional Studies in Birmingham University. He found great satisfaction in the academic life; he was an exceptionally fine teacher, an efficient administrator and a productive scholar. Election to the Chair of Urban and Regional Planning followed in 1976; between 1981 and 1986 he served as the Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Social Science; and, for the last four years before he took early retirement in 1991, he was Head of the School of Geography. During the same period, he found time to be the university's Public Orator.

Within his academic discipline, Cherry specialised in the history of planning. He was a founder member and chairman of the Planning History Group, which evolved under his leadership into the International Planning History Society, whose overall aim is to define the character of contemporary planning problems through analysis of their historical origins. With the same objective he helped to found and then edit *Planning Perspectives*, which is now the leading international journal in the field.

Cherry's publications reveal the same fundamental concern: *Urban Change and Planning* (1972); *The Evolution of British Town Planning* (1974); *The Politics of Town Planning* (1982); *Holford: a study in planning, architecture and civil design* (with J.L. Peimay, 1986); and his last book, *Birmingham: a study in geography, history and planning* (1994).

Gordon Cherry was never happier than when fully engaged; first in his list of recreations, in *Who's Who*, this was followed by the Waterlily Prize and in 1989 the Erasmus Prize.

He was also jointly responsible, with Jean-Jacques Gautier, for establishing the prestigious Association for the Prevention of Torture.

fulness of his walk – was generously expended in activities such as serving on a group which advised the Sports Council on research, leisure and recreation (for 10 years to 1977), and as Official Historian, with his colleague Barry Cullingworth, working on cabinet and other papers on environmental planning in the post-war period (1970-75). From this investigation came his important publication *Environmental Planning, Volume II: National Parks and Recreation in the Countryside* (1975).

In addition, for 10 years Cherry was a member of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England; on the Landscape Advisory Committee of the Department of Transport and – following his retirement – Chairman of the Bournville Village Trust (of which he had been a trustee since 1979). Even during his final illness when to a consider-



Cherry: ebullient

able extent robbed of speech and increasingly of movement – though undimmed in mind and spirit – Cherry insisted on reading trust papers. No one who saw him in his last weeks could fail to be moved by his remarkable courage.

A man of deep religious faith, Gordon Cherry contributed to a number of the Church's studies of the environment and society. He served, for example, on the Bishop of Birmingham's commission, which published *Faith in the City* in 1980, and sat for many years on the Diocesan Board of Social Responsibility. In his village he acted as churchwarden and secretary to the church council. Among his recreations he listed "church ecumenism" and "enjoyment of family life". His sharp intelligence, ebullient personality and lively sense of humour made him a stimulating as well as an immensely rewarding companion.

James T. Boulton

Gordon Emmanuel Cherry, town planning historian: born Burslem 6 February 1931; Research Officer, Newcastle-upon-Tyne City Planning Department, 1963-68; Professor of Urban and Regional Studies, Birmingham University 1976-91 (Emeritus), Dean, Faculty of Commerce and Social Science 1981-86; Head, School of Geography 1987-91; Public Orator 1987-91; Fellow, Institute for Advanced Research in Birmingham 1991-96; President, Royal Town Planning Institute 1978-79; married 1957 Margaret Cox (one son, two daughters); died Hampton-in-Arden, West Midlands 11 January 1996.

Frank Scott, racehorse owner, died 27 February, aged 58. Former chairman of Sedgefield racecourse, near Durham.

Owner and breeder of horses such as Greenheart, Ard Coal, Foster Fergie, The Wilk, and Irish Gent.

Henry Parris

Henry Parris's career was remarkable for both the depth and breadth of his scholarship. He was the author of three major works which mark him out as a first-class administrative historian, and an authority on constitutional bureaucracy.

Parris won an Open Exhibition to University College, Oxford, graduating in History in 1949. He was awarded an MA with distinction by Leeds University in 1954, and achieved a PhD at Leicester University in 1960. He lectured at universities including Sheffield and Durham, and was Director of Studies in Public Administration at the Civil Service College. He was Visiting Professor in the London School of Economics Department of Government from 1988 to 1994.

Parris's book *Government and the Railways in Nineteenth Century Britain* (1965) is highly relevant to today's controversy on privatisation, and challenges many assumptions of current *laissez-faire* doctrines. But he will be particularly remembered for his dialogue with Oliver MacDonagh about the "19th-century revolution in government", made famous by a series of articles and rejoinders that grew out of A.V. Dicey's work. In particular, Dicey's interpretation of Benthamism.

Parris demonstrated that, although 19th-century governments preached *laissez-faire*, they energetically practised intervention. The distinction between individualism and collectivism was never as clear-cut as the theorists maintained –

both policies were pursued side by side. The debate raised important issues about the roles of generalist civil servants (mandarins), and specialist experts in the shaping of policy – issues which re-emerged in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

More recently, he extended his studies beyond the confines of the UK with publications on Swedish and French administration. For a time, his articles on the Ecole Nationale d'Administration and the Conseil d'Etat were the only works available in English, and are still a recognised authority. About a recent lecture, which Parris gave in French, the President of the Conseil d'Etat remarked on the fact that they had to get an Englishman to tell them the virtues of their institutions.

As visiting Professor at the LSE from 1988 to 1994, Parris was responsible for the masters course and for supervision of doctoral students in the study of comparative public enterprises. He ranged widely over the practices of many countries, both developed and developing, and won the respect of the many graduate students who later went on to run public enterprises in their own countries.

Henry Parris was an all-rounder, without being superficial or dilettante. He had a deep affection for literature and poetry, was a member of the Trollope Society, and recently took a flourishing class in literature with the Bury University of the Third Age, of which he was a founder member and former chairman. He was actively involved in civic affairs, conservation and town-planning and a lifelong, though sometimes critical, supporter of the Labour Party. A keen feminist, he was a member of the Fawcett Society for 20 years.

Parris was a gentle, shy and retiring man, who loathed war. He was rejected by the War Office Selection Board because he "totally lacked aggression". His distinction would have been more widely recognised had he not been so very different.

Stephen Cotgrove

Henry Walter Parris, historian: born Reading 20 November 1923; Research Fellow, Manchester University 1959-61; Lecturer in History, Durham University 1961-63; Lecturer in Politics, Durham University 1963-69; Director of Studies in Public Administration, Civil Service College 1970-76; Visiting Professor, Department of Government, London School of Economics 1988-94; FRHS 1973; married 1949 Judith Studd (two sons, two daughters, and one son deceased); died Bury, St Edmunds 31 January 1996.

Niall MacDermot

Niall MacDermot was a most gifted and accomplished advocate, writes Lord Justice Otton [further to the obituary by Tam Dayrell, 26 February]. He had a commanding presence, handsome looks, a supple voice and a patrician but courteous manner. He was outstanding in cross-examination. He was an excellent pupil-master. He

taught by example the value of preparation, the skill of argument, and the art of how to carry out and not confront the court.

When he returned to the Bar in 1968 he was soon in demand for important cases, notably for the prosecution team in the trial of the Great Train Robbers, where his cross-examination of Gundy (Two

Shoes) delighted the *cognoscenti*. His last major brief was on behalf of the Wing Airport Resistance Association before the Roskill Commission Enquiry into the third London Airport.

If he had stayed at the Bar, appointment to the High Court Bench would have been assured, as he had already mar-

lised the judicial virtues of firmness and fairness when Deputy Chairman of Bedfordshire Quarter Sessions. Recorder of Newark-on-Trent and Recorder of the Crown Court.

MacDermot filled the post of Secretary-General of the International Commission of Jurists with distinction for 20 years. He combined his deep

commitment to the Rule of Law and Human Rights with his skills as a lawyer, politician and diplomat. On his missions, to Africa, South Africa, Greece, Japan, he was often successful in persuading heads of state to respect democracy, law and justice. In 1975 he became a member of the Council for the International Institute of Hu-

man Rights and in 1980 the Council of Europe awarded his commission the first ever prize in Human Rights; this was followed by the Waterlily Prize and in 1989 the Erasmus Prize.

Must all our liturgy be quite un-Donne?

faith & reason

Rabbi Albert Friedlander, of the Westminster Synagogue, argues this week for the preservation of religious language. Profound thoughts demand words which have depth and history, he says.

our language. Bosnia and Rwanda, Cambodia and Somalia have silenced our tongues, and our imagination has withered. After the Holocaust, Adorno suggested that poetry had lost its place in civilised discourse. He was right, for a limited time.

Today, I do not find our language richer. I find it weaker, filled with subtleties and self-deceits. The noble dreams of the past have given way to the greed of the lottery, and even synagogues and churches have placed hand upon mouth in a Jobean gesture. Nevertheless, I must declare my interest and state that the religious sanctuary has become a rare refuge of language. It was Wittgenstein who argued that speech has meaning where the rules governing their use are established and agreed upon among users.

It does not mean that there are no arguments in the house of worship. I've seen fist fights there! But there is a set liturgy, my Zimmer frame, which moves me and all at prayer into one direction. The philosopher Leszek Kolakowski starts

with the premise that there is the language of worship which becomes ritual, prayer, and communication with God in the eyes of the worshippers. The religious symbols become doorways into new areas of existence. And I must confess that I feel at home in the ancient Hebrew language which does not permit a split infinitive and which has the myth and poetry of thousands of years incorporated into the texts of prayer and study.

Jean Aitchison has her 14th-century monk complaining about English with its "haunting and gayering gishywing", its snarling and tooth-grashing. But why decay power and passion? We find it in the Book of Job as well, in the speeches of the "friends", but also in Job's challenge of God. I love it. It gives me the passions of the past which live on in the synagogue but also in Israel.

Recently, I read an article by Amos Oz in the *New Yorker* where a majestic old/new language thundered in modern terms. And I would desire the intensity and depth of the English language preserved. I love English with a passion even when it is not required, and long for at least echoes of it. Milton and Donne and for a biblical text which at least remembers something of the King James version. I also want Latin back in the school curriculum and in Catholic worship, but would not give advice to Basil Hume.

In the end, caught in the web of language of our world, I would like to shimmer with the immensity which fills cathedrals and synagogues, where the structure of communication is built upon an awareness of a law which incises upon us as a token of transcendence. But perhaps that is too much to ask.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Deaths, Marriages, Births, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Office, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (weddings, funerals, forthcoming marriages, marriages) must be submitted in writing to the London Office, The Independent, 100 Strand, London WC2R 0AL, and are charged at £10 a line (VAT extra). They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Lectures

TODAY
National Gallery: Mari Griffith, "Eyes and Ears (11 Monks, *Parvati of a Lady*)", 12pm.
Victoria and Albert Museum: Charles Newton, "Back of the Envelope", 2.30pm.
Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Watercolours by Cézanne", 1pm; Richard Thomson, "Cézanne and Rubens", 3.30pm.
National Portrait Gallery: Graham Colton, Sarah Levitt, Naomi Isaac, "Victorian Costume", 11am-3.30pm.
TOMORROW
Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Hogarth in Pollock: performance in paint", 2.30pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince and Princess of Wales, with the Queen, will attend the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am, in London on Wednesday (the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, and the Queen's Life Guard, at Horse Guards, 11.30am). The Prince and Princess of Wales will also attend the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11.30am.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Pat Arrowsmith, peace campaigner, 60; Mrs Margaret Burbiel, ballerina, 49; Mr Harry Blech, founder of the London Mozart Players, 80; Lady Moyra Browne, former supermodel, 51; John Ambulance Brigade, 76; Sir Thomas Chubb, BT (Thomas Hinde), author, 70; Sir Leonard Crossland, former and former chairman, Eaton Ltd, 82; Rear Admiral Sir Charles Darlington, former Director of the Naval Education Service, 80; Lord Elton, 67; former government minister, Mr Jon Finch, actor, 56; Mr John Gardner, composer, 79; Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the Soviet Union, 65; Sir Donald Gosling, joint chairman, National Car Parks Ltd, 67; Mr Ronald Groves, former chairman, Meyer International, 76; Lord Howe of Troon, engineer, publisher and journalist, 72; Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, 73; Dame Naomi James, yachtswoman, 47; Mr Nicholas Jarrold, Ambassador to Latvia, 50; Mrs Jennifer Jones, actress, 77; Mr Robert Lloyd, operatic bass, 56; Sir John Mandwell, composer and Principal, Royal Northern College of Music, 68; Mr Hugh Monro, Headmaster, Clifton College, 40; Li-Guo Sir Robert Richardson, 67; Mr Robert Simpson, composer, 73; Mr John Tish, managing director, Barclays Centre, 42; Mr John Peter Rhyll Williams, rugby player and surgeon, 47; Mr Ian Wootnam, golfer, 38.

TOMORROW: Mr Ernest Bradbury, writer and broadcaster, 77; The Hon Peter Brooke CH MP, 62; Sir George Gardiner MP, 61; Mr David Glenister, chief executive, ITC, 60; Dr Rod Hackney, past president, RIBA, 54; Mr Takashi Ishihara, councillor, Nissan Motor Co, 54; Mr Martin Levent, musician and teacher, 69; Mr Maurice Lynn, former Headmaster, the Oratory School, 45; Mrs

Eleanor McLaughlin, former Lord Provost and Lord Lieutenant of Edinburgh, 58; Air Vice-Marshal Charles Mangan, 73; Lord Melist, former government minister, 53; Professor Neil Merritt, former Vice-Chancellor, Portsmouth University, 57; Mr James Miller, Headmaster, Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne, 40; Mr Peter O'Sullivan, racing commentator, 78; Sir Nick Prescott, racehorse trainer, 48; Mr Miranda Richardson, actress, 35; Mr Ronald Seale, artist and cartoonist, 70; Professor R.H. Graham Suggett, Principal, Warwickshire College, 68; Lord Templeman, former Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 70; Mrs Felma Whitbread, jockey's wife, 35.

Birthdays

TODAY: Births: Sir Thomas Bodley, diplomat and bibliophile, founder of the Bodleian Library, 1545; Samuel Houston, Texas statesman, 1793; Bedrich Smetana, composer, 1824; Karl Julian Weiler, composer, 1906; Deaths: John Wesley, founder of Methodism, 1791; Horace Walpole, fourth Earl of Orford, novelist and historian, 1797; David Herbert Lawrence, novelist, 1930; Howard Carter, painter and Egyptologist, 1899; On this day the "War of Oranges" started between Spain and Portugal, 1640; the British Commonwealth Trans-Atlantic Expedition, led by Sir Vivian Fuchs, arrived at Ross Island, 1958; the French prototype Concorde made its first test flight, 1969. Today is the Feast Day of St Chad or Cadda; St Joan of Brabant and The Martyrs under the Lombards.

TOMORROW: Births: Thomas Otway, playwright, 1652; Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, 1847; Sir Henry Joseph Wood, founder of Promenade Concerts, 1859; Jean Harlow (Harlow)

Carpenter, actress, 1911; Deaths: Robert Adam, architect, 1792; Noel Gay (Richard Morton Armistead), composer and pianist, 1954; Lou Cochet (Louis-François Cochet), actor and comedian, 1959; Danny Kaye (Daniel David Karmelinsky), actor and entertainer, 1987. On this day: world was abolished in Russia, 1801; the US Congress adopted "The Star Spangled Banner" as the national anthem, 1931; the *Apollon* spacecraft was launched from Cape Kennedy, 1969. **TOMORROW** is the Feast Day of St Andrew of Reclus, St Asaph of Northwold, St Arildus, St Chad, St Cuthbert, St Edmund, St Emmerich, St Germain, Sts Nereus and Achmias, St Non of Normandy and St Winwaloe of Gwent.

Dinners

St David's Day London Welsh Celebration
The Lord Mayor of London, Mr John Chatterley, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and the Sheriffs and their ladies, will be the guest of honour at the St David's Day London Welsh Celebration Banquet held yesterday evening at the Savoy Hotel, London WCC. Dr D. Gifford Davies presided. Mr Huw Edwards, Mr Gilbert Gray OBE, Mr John Humphrys and Dame Gwyneth Jones were the speakers.

RAF Strike Command

An Vice-Marshal TB Sherrington, Air Officer, Administration, Headquarters RAF Strike Command, was the guest of the Ladies' Guest Night held yesterday evening in the Officers' Mess, Headquarters Strike Command, RAF High Wycombe. Wing-CD Evers presided. Wing-CD L.V. Pizzari also spoke. Mr C.H. Grieco, Master of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, and Mrs Grieco were among the guests.

0171-293 2011

unit trusts/data

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-MARK	Spot
US	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Canada	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
France	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Germany	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Italy	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Japan	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Switzerland	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Netherlands	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Sweden	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Denmark	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Australia	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
New Zealand	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Singapore	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Spot	Country	Spot
Argentina	1274	India	1274
Australia	1274	Indonesia	1274
Belgium	1274	Japan	1274
Canada	1274	Malaysia	1274
France	1274	Philippines	1274
Germany	1274	Portugal	1274
Italy	1274	Russia	1274
Japan	1274	South Africa	1274
Netherlands	1274	Taiwan	1274
Sweden	1274	USA	1274
Switzerland	1274		

Tourist Rates

Country	Spot	Country	Spot
Argentina	1274	India	1274
Australia	1274	Indonesia	1274
Belgium	1274	Japan	1274
Canada	1274	Malaysia	1274
France	1274	Philippines	1274
Germany	1274	Portugal	1274
Italy	1274	Russia	1274
Japan	1274	South Africa	1274
Netherlands	1274	Taiwan	1274
Sweden	1274	USA	1274
Switzerland	1274		

Interest Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
US	1274	India	1274
Canada	1274	Indonesia	1274
France	1274	Japan	1274
Germany	1274	Malaysia	1274
Italy	1274	Philippines	1274
Japan	1274	Portugal	1274
Netherlands	1274	Russia	1274
Sweden	1274	South Africa	1274
Switzerland	1274	Taiwan	1274
USA	1274		

Bond Yields

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
US	1274	India	1274
Canada	1274	Indonesia	1274
France	1274	Japan	1274
Germany	1274	Malaysia	1274
Italy	1274	Philippines	1274
Japan	1274	Portugal	1274
Netherlands	1274	Russia	1274
Sweden	1274	South Africa	1274
Switzerland	1274	Taiwan	1274
USA	1274		

Money Market Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
US	1274	India	1274
Canada	1274	Indonesia	1274
France	1274	Japan	1274
Germany	1274	Malaysia	1274
Italy	1274	Philippines	1274
Japan	1274	Portugal	1274
Netherlands	1274	Russia	1274
Sweden	1274	South Africa	1274
Switzerland	1274	Taiwan	1274
USA	1274		

Life Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Est. Conts	Open
Long Gilt	1274	1274	1274	1274
Short Gilt	1274	1274	1274	1274
Long Bond	1274	1274	1274	1274
Short Bond	1274	1274	1274	1274
Long Euro	1274	1274	1274	1274
Short Euro	1274	1274	1274	1274
Long Yen	1274	1274	1274	1274
Short Yen	1274	1274	1274	1274

Liffe FT-SE Index Option

Series	Settlement	High/Low	Est. Conts	Open
Long	1274	1274	1274	1274
Short	1274	1274	1274	1274

Commodities

Commodity	Price	Commodity	Price
Oil	1274	Grain	1274
Gold	1274	Metals	1274
Silver	1274	Textiles	1274
Copper	1274	Foodstuffs	1274

AGRICULTURAL

Commodity	Price	Commodity	Price
Wheat	1274	Barley	1274
Rice	1274	Maize	1274
Soybeans	1274	Peas	1274
Beans	1274	Lentils	1274

ENERGY

Commodity	Price	Commodity	Price
Oil	1274	Coal	1274
Gas	1274	Natural Gas	1274
Electricity	1274	Hydro	1274

COMMODITY INDEXES

Index	Value	Index	Value
Oil	1274	Grain	1274
Gold	1274	Metals	1274
Silver	1274	Textiles	1274
Copper	1274	Foodstuffs	1274

100 Largest Insurance Funds

Fund	Assets	Fund	Assets
Long Term	1274	MetLife	1274
Prudential	1274	Amersbach	1274
Equity	1274	Investment	1274
Income	1274	Real Estate	1274
International	1274	Global	1274

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-MARK	Spot
US	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Canada	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
France	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Germany	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Italy	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Japan	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Switzerland	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Netherlands	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Sweden	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Denmark	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Australia	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
New Zealand	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Singapore	1274	1274	1274	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

market report/shares

THE INDEPENDENT • SATURDAY 2 MARCH 1991

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100

3752.7+25.1

FT-SE 250

4236.4+21.4

FT-SE 350

1876.0+11.9

SEAQ VOLUME

803.2m shares,

33,535 bargains

Gilts Index

93.56 +0.51

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

A S O N D J F

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Yorkshire Electricity

Share price, pence

Rumours of imminent interest rate cut spur shares

Hopes of an interest rate cut next week spurred shares with many second liners stretching to new peaks.

At one time the FT-SE 100 blue chip index was up 36 points as Government stocks scored gains of almost one-and-a-half points. But by the close Footsie's advance had been trimmed to 25.1.

The supporting index, measuring the next 250 shares, was in an even more confident mood. It closed 21.4 points higher at a record 4,236.4.

The next Ken and Eddie meeting is due on Thursday and the stock market is convinced the Chancellor and Governor will sanction an interest rate reduction.

The atmosphere was sufficiently strong for some large lines of stock to be cleared, although a five-million parcel of Allied Domecq continued to hover, lowering the shares to 511p.

Yorkshire Electricity was a star performer. The shares surged 39.5p to 793.5p as speculation resurfaced of a US takeover. Evidence of US buying has become apparent and Yorkshire seems to be the signalled target.

But stories of a Yorkshire strike have often sent the shares sizzling. At one time or another the group has been linked with a variety of possible predators.

Other electricity firms to catch the takeover current included East Midlands, up 9p to 732p; London 23p to 759p and Midlands 8p to 403p.

Waters also rose with Cazenove, the stockbroker, said to be keen on the sector. Thames improved 7p to 539p.

United Utilities, embracing electricity and water, was the best performing blue chip, gaining 19p to 599p.

British Aerospace was another flying high. Further con-



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

sideration of its results pushed the shares 21p up to 691p after 903p. Its performance inspired Ams, the defence group, to a 12p advance to 157p, a peak.

The Whitehall decision to refer the Lloyds Chemists takeover to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission lowered the shares 24p to 459p.

UniChem, one of the frustrated bidders, slipped 3p to 243p.

MFI, the flatpack furniture group, had the distinction of producing a trading statement which did not provoke a share fall. Its tale of higher sales and lower margins lifted the shares to 158p.

Pearson added 12p to 694p

on Merrill Lynch support and Pilkington improved 5p to 214p on the back of Société Générale Strauss Turnbull.

Trafalgar House had a fretful session as worries multiplied over a much tougher bargain than had been expected.

Suggestion it was unhappy with what it was finding at Tris lowered the shares 2.5p to 44.75p in busy trading.

The interest rate speculation helped retailers and builders with Redrow climbing 17p to 149p. The shares were floated at 135p two years ago.

Cray Electronics firmed 2p

to 47p on revived takeover talk but Memory Corporation, the computer chip repairer, unsettled its followers with an increased loss which seemed to kill hopes of profits this year.

The shares fell 107p to 225p. They have fallen 177p this week.

Viewson surged 35p to 305p in a market desperately short of stock. Calls for more information from the company seemed harsh. It produced a prospectus when it floated in December at 100p. Only 3 million shares have been issued.

Botrace International, the healthcare group, continued its remarkable run, gaining 8p to 72p. It has signed a European marketing agreement with a German group.

The British Petroleum/Mobil deal left Frost, the petrol retailer, 6p lower at 121p. BP gained a further 5.5p to 545p.

Navan Resources, with extensive mineral interests in

Eastern Europe, jumped 13p to 187p on talk of a significant deal over one of its mines. Some suggested a takeover bid at 235p.

English National Investment Co, which has been revamped, gained 5p to 59p, a peak. The company is controlled by Joseph Lewis, the Bahamas investor who has built a near 30 per cent interest in Christie's International, the auctioneer, and has also moved in on Union, the financial group. There are suggestions it could become his main UK investment vehicle.

Another Lewis interest Harmony, the property group, held at 4p. There is talk of a merger with Olives Property. Mr Lewis has around 10 per cent of Harmony.

Spargo Consulting, the computer group, gave up 9p to 189p. Profits fell £308,000 to £302,000. Up to £1.7m is likely this year.

TAKING STOCK

Bluebird Toys' record breaking run could come to an end when it reports year's figures next week. Some are hoping for more than £18m but indications are profits will come in just below £18m against £19.7m last time.

The toy group, with some £80m in the bank, could launch a share buyback following the results. It already has permission. Bluebird, where takeover hopes linger, fell 2p to 318p.

Specialises, the optical retailer, gained 4p to 26p, a year's high. It has received a payment from Customs and Excise for overpaid VAT which produced a £7.5m exceptional inflow lifting profits to £7.5m against a £788,000 loss. Further VAT claims are likely.

Specialises is using its riches to develop its shops. Its capitalisation is only 54m.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: Ex rights: Ex-dividend in £s all u United Securities Market's Suspended pp Parly Paid pm Nil Paid Shares. Source: Reuters.

The Independent Index

The index shows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seaq. Simply dial 081 233 336, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 081 233 336 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

FT-SE 100 - Real-time 00 Starting Rates 04 Privatization Issues 36
UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 05 Water Shares 39
UK Company News 02 West St Report 20 Secondary Shares 40
Foreign Exchange 03 Tokyo Market 21 High Street Shares 41

Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 081 233 336. For assistance, call our helpline 071 873 4378 (9.30am - 5.30pm). Calls cost 30p per minute (cheap rates), and 40p at all other times. Call charges include.

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
ASDA Group	600,000	Woolworth	80,000	Marle & Spencer	80,000	Raw Pigeon	60,000
BP	300,000	Wool	80,000	Wool	80,000	Wool	80,000
BP	300,000	Wool	80,000	Wool	80,000	Wool	80,000
BP	300,000	Wool	80,000	Wool	80,000	Wool	80,000
BP	300,000	Wool	80,000	Wool	80,000	Wool	80,000

FT-SE 100 index hour by hour

Open	High	Low	Close
09.00 3725.5 up 20	11.00 3740.2 up 20	13.00 3740.2 up 20	14.00 3740.2 up 20
09.00 3725.5 up 20	11.00 3740.2 up 20	13.00 3740.2 up 20	14.00 3740.2 up 20
09.00 3725.5 up 20	11.00 3740.2 up 20	13.00 3740.2 up 20	14.00 3740.2 up 20
09.00 3725.5 up 20	11.00 3740.2 up 20	13.00 3740.2 up 20	14.00 3740.2 up 20

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
ASDA Group	3725.5	+20	600,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
ASDA Group	3725.5	+20	600,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
ASDA Group	3725.5	+20	600,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
ASDA Group	3725.5	+20	600,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
ASDA Group	3725.5	+20	600,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
ASDA Group	3725.5	+20	600,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
ASDA Group	3725.5	+20	600,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
ASDA Group	3725.5	+20	600,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
ASDA Group	3725.5	+20	600,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
ASDA Group	3725.5	+20	600,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
ASDA Group	3725.5	+20	600,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
ASDA Group	3725.5	+20	600,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
ASDA Group	3725.5	+20	600,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
ASDA Group	3725.5	+20	600,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
ASDA Group	3725.5	+20	600,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
ASDA Group	3725.5	+20	600,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
ASDA Group	3725.5	+20	600,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,000

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
ASDA Group	3725.5	+20	600,000
BP	3725.5	+20	300,0

ket report: Rate cut rumours spur shares 18
Young set to settle with C&W for £2.4m 21
stment: New format pays off for MFI 21

BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

business

THE INDEPENDENT • Saturday 2 March 1996

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: Tel 0171-293 2530 Fax 0171-293 2098

UniChem referral scuppers Lloyds chemist bid

SRIMOND

Two-way bid battle between UniChem and Lloyds Chemists has been referred to the Office of Fair Trading.

The news means UniChem's bid automatically lapses. It sent shares in Lloyds down 24p to 459p, compared with Gehe's cash bid of 500p, while UniChem dipped just 3p to 243p. It leaves UniChem sitting on a paper loss of around £4m on the 9.9 per cent shareholding built up in Lloyds during the course of the bid and cuts the

value of the stake held by Allen Lloyd by £2.2m to £42m. The decision caused anger in the UniChem camp, whose costs excluding the loss on the shares are now thought to have grown to between £18m and £20m. It will be the second time in four years that the industry has been investigated by the Monopolies Commission, following the inquiry in 1991-92 into bids for Macarthy by Lloyds and UniChem.

In a statement, UniChem chief executive Jeffrey Harris said: "We are very surprised and naturally very disappointed about the outcome of today's decision to refer the acquisition to the MMC." UniChem strongly believed that the acquisition would improve the efficiency of the distribution service to the independent pharmacist and that the creation of a larger retailing chain will improve the competitiveness of our service, he said.

John Taylor, Minister for Competition and Consumer Affairs, said UniChem's proposals raised competition concerns in both the wholesale and retail markets in the UK. A takeover of Lloyds would add around 6 percentage points to the wholesaling market shares of both bidders, each of which currently holds around a third of the market. It would leave either Boots 1,200 pharmacies, but

still less than the market leader's 12 per cent market share. UniChem's frustration stems from the fact that it spent several weeks before the announcement of its original bid in January attempting to soothe any competition concerns with the Office of Fair Trading. It believed that proposals to sell two regional wholesaling operations in the north of England and Scotland had quelled competition concerns.

There is also anger that the DTI has decided at such a late stage in the bid to call the Gehe bid back from Brussels, given the similarity of the issues at stake. The timetable allows a further three weeks while the request is processed, during which Gehe can continue to prosecute its bid but UniChem is blocked. The bid document for Gehe's revised offer announced last month is due out on Wednesday.



Allen Lloyd: Bid failure cuts his stake by £2.2m to £42m

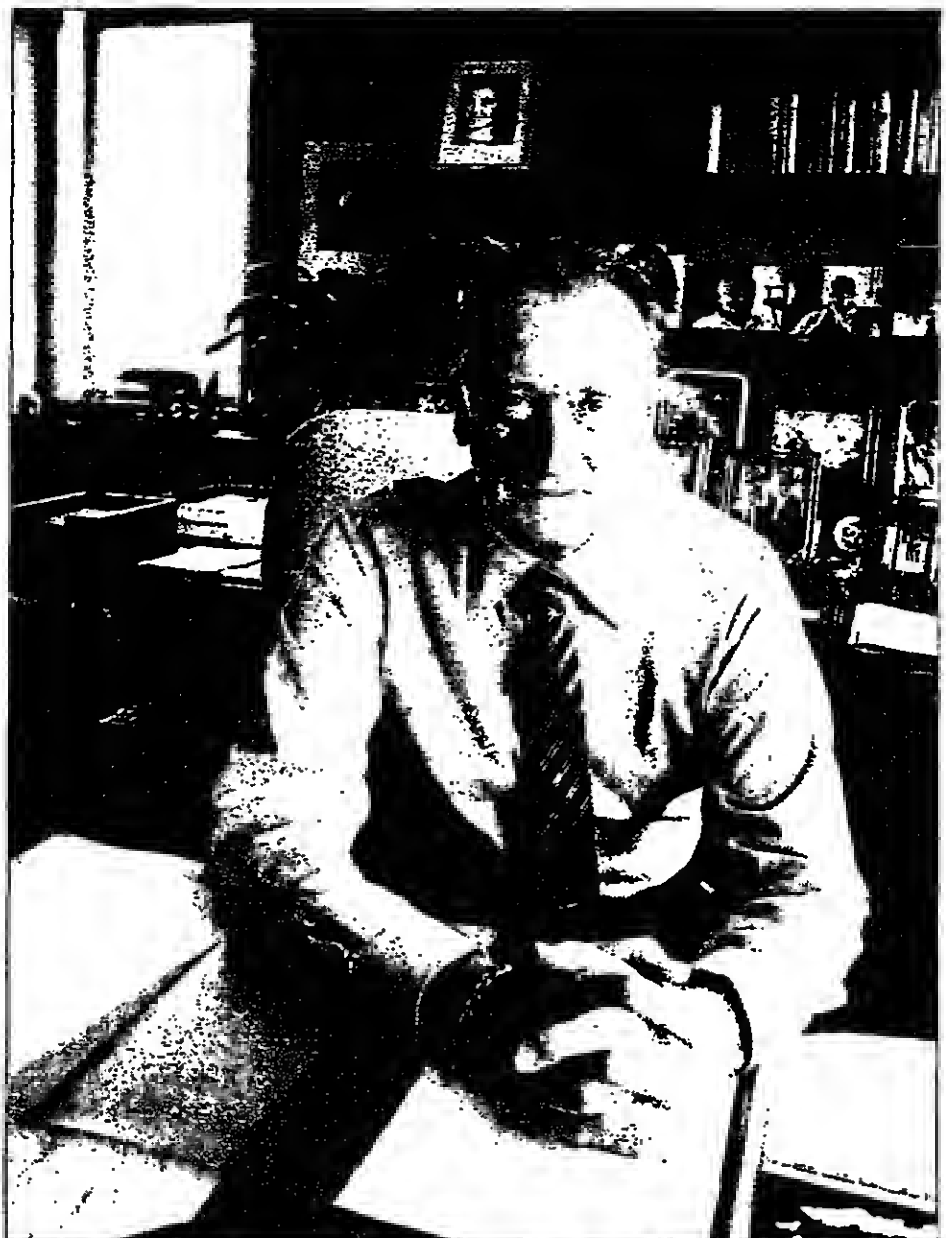
Hanson electricity firm enters battle with British Gas

IGAN Correspondent

Group, England's general electricity firm, has entered a share domestic gas market and slam package in 20 per cent discounts on now, pay nothing, over deal.

level of service and expertise which is substantial improvement on what they have come to expect. His comments come only days after warnings by Clare Spottiswoode, the industry watchdog, that British Gas must vastly improve service standards or risk a dramatic loss of customers to rival suppliers. The domestic gas market opens to competition from 29 April in the South-west in an area covering 500,000 homes. Next year it extends to 2 million households with the market opening fully in 1998. Eastern joins a range of competitors including Total Gas and Amerada Hess.

South Western Electricity was the first electricity firm to launch its gas service but this has been blighted by complaints to the Trading Standards Authority over aggressive doorstep selling techniques. British Gas has yet to reveal its response. However there is a widespread view that it will feel unable to slash prices in the South-west for fear of upsetting customers elsewhere and to avoid incurring the wrath of the Government.



Lord Hanson's grand slam: The Hanson-owned Eastern Group plans to offer a domestic gas package including discounts and a 'buy now, pay nothing until October' deal

Recessionary signals boost rate cut hopes

WALLACE

recession in manufacturing weaker inflationary in both Britain and the US. The financial markets are looking for a rate cut in the near future.

Governor of the Bank of England, on Thursday, he will be able to point to encouraging news on prices and the overall weakness in manufacturing. The survey's prices index fell from 49.1 to 44.4, its lowest level since January 1992. A further sign of weakness was that the employment index remained below 50 for the second month running. Purchasing managers said the number of firms announcing redundancies again outnumbered those recruiting.

Warburg 'set for more defections'

JOHN WILLCOCK

A clash of cultures in SBC Warburg's corporate finance department between the traditional Warburgs and their new SBC colleagues will lead to more defections, insiders predicted yesterday.

Some insiders are saying that Warburg's traditional concentration on giving advice to clients has been sacrificed by the SBC side, who are geared to selling products. One insider last night described SBC's corporate finance star, Brian Keelan, as "a culture clash for almost anyone".

More money has been pumped into the business, and the analysts and traders are doing pretty well, he said. SBC Warburg's analysts consistently topped the league tables for 1995.

Senior director in corporate finance who has been with the bank for 20 years, left to head NatWest Markets' UK corporate finance division. On the same day Stella Coulthirst, a director of corporate finance who joined 10 years ago left to join BZW, recruited by Mark Seligman, another recent SBC Warburg defector.

STOCK MARKETS				
Index	1st Mar	Change	1995/96 High	1995/96 Low
Dow Jones	7992.78	+25.10	7971.30	2954.20
Nikkei	12286.40	+11.40	12366.40	3300.90
FTSE 100	1878.00	+17.90	1882.10	1482.40
FTSE 250	2058.71	+6.94	2058.71	1678.61
FTSE 1000	1852.03	+11.26	1856.23	1469.23
FTSE 10000	5504.41	+18.79	5620.48	3532.09
FTSE 100000	20168.63	+43.26	21118.30	14485.40
FTSE 1000000	11194.94	+39.26	11594.99	6967.93
FTSE 10000000	2501.22	+27.67	2501.22	1910.96

INTEREST RATES				
Short sterling	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year
UK medium gilt	6.19	6.19	6.19	6.19
US long bond	5.47	5.25	6.02	7.36
Money Market Rates	5.47	5.25	6.02	7.36
Bond Yields	5.47	5.25	6.02	7.36

CURRENCIES				
£/\$	£/DM	£/Y	£/A	£/S
1.5284	0.6543	165.17	165.17	165.17
1.5270	0.6549	165.17	165.17	165.17
2.2552	0.6549	165.17	165.17	165.17
161.178	0.6549	165.17	165.17	165.17

S Wales £60m aid package under scrutiny

RUSSELL HOTTEN

The Government, which yesterday announced a £230m investment in a South Wales electronics plant that will create 770 jobs, is believed to be giving almost £60m in grants towards the project.

European Commission officials are expected to study whether the grant package breaks its competition rules, in a move that has echoes of the current dispute over state aid for Jaguar Cars.

When you start
a small business,
the last thing
you need is a bank
that treats
you like one.

Some banks think they need to hold your hand when you're a small business. We don't. We just give you sound, professional financial guidance. New businesses benefit from the same high quality service that huge corporations enjoy. Plus free Business Information Fact Sheets and free Business Opportunity Profiles, as well as the widest range of Government and E.U. loans. At Barclays don't expect special treatment because you've just started up. Expect it all the time.



BUSINESS ACCOUNT



CORREY

Lord Y

THE ISV

Homework
MFI as s



COMMENT

Despite the undoubted benefits from direct investment, it still leaves many people feeling uneasy. Early worries about Britain becoming the home of screwdriver plants have not been wholly dispelled.

We pay a heavy price for inward investment

The rush of inward investment continues apace. The latest project is a £230m expansion in silicon chip production, creating 770 jobs – courtesy of the Hong Kong electronics company QPL. Proof positive, ministers proclaim, that their electrifying slogan of Britain as the enterprise centre of Europe adds up to jobs on the ground.

Cynics will point rather to the level of public funds going into the plant via the Welsh Development Agency. More generally, the question raised by this and other projects is whether it is really such a compliment to receive so much inward investment.

The scale of the flow into the UK is certainly substantial. In the first three quarters of 1995, no less than £11bn of direct investment took place – more than 2 per cent of GDP. More important, the inflow was equivalent to almost 15 per cent of total investment in the economy – this at a time when growth in capital spending has been extremely disappointing.

Much of the inflow has in practice gone on the purchase of financial assets through mergers and takeovers, rather than new investment on the ground. But clearly foreign firms are now playing a highly significant role in renewing the country's capital stock.

Nowhere is this more so than in manufacturing, for so long the Achilles' heel of the British economy. Foreign firms now account for almost a third of total industrial investment. They equip each of their workers with double the amount of plant and equipment

provided by UK-owned firms. It comes as no surprise, then, that foreign-owned firms produce 40 per cent more per worker than their UK counterparts.

However, despite the undoubted benefits from direct investment, it still leaves many people feeling uneasy. Early worries about Britain becoming the home of screwdriver plants have not been wholly dispelled. It is true that foreign investors conduct a fair amount of research in Britain. Their share of manufacturing research and development was 19 per cent in 1989, hardly less than their 21 per cent share of turnover. However, this is less encouraging than it seems, because the big multinationals who predominate in foreign investment spend disproportionately on R&D. Certainly the evidence of 'Silicon Glen' – the concentration of electronics manufacturing in Scotland – is that the local economy remains strongest in assembly work rather than higher value areas.

Furthermore, while manufacturing has been assisted by foreign investment, the long slide in its share of GDP has not been reversed. Ten years ago, it accounted for just over a quarter of national output; now it accounts for little over a fifth. No doubt the position would have been considerably worse without the big investments made by foreign companies. Yet the inward flow testifies as much to the underlying weakness of manufacturing, with foreign investors resettling huge swathes of industry – like colour television production – abandoned by second-rate home producers.

So we get industrial regeneration of a kind. But it comes on the terms of the multinationals who have selected Britain as a base. There is a price to be paid and this is not just overt or covert forms of industrial support. More importantly, the freedom of policymakers to tax business is restricted. The interest of foreign investors in strategic questions such as Britain's place in Europe also has to be considered. Multinationals have invested in the UK as a springboard for a European market and they don't want to see that threatened. For all the Tory Euro-sceptic rhetoric, the effect is to constrain ministerial freedom of manoeuvre. This may be no bad thing. In the end, however, the price we pay for inward investment is loss of control.

border nature of its bid gives Brussels jurisdiction. Clearly it would be ridiculous for UniChem to be referred to the MMC and not Gehe, for as far as the UK is concerned, the two companies are mirror images of each other. Their bids raise exactly the same competition issues.

However, claiming Gehe back from Brussels is more than just a formality. What has to happen is that a particular domestic competition problem – say undue concentration of market power in Yorkshire – has to be demonstrated. The MMC then has to confine its deliberations to that specific concern.

What the Office of Fair Trading is doing with UniChem and wants to do with Gehe is have a wide-ranging inquiry dealing with issues of 'vertical integration' and anything else that takes the MMC's fancy. It hasn't actually raised a 'specific' concern. The application form is as a consequence, incorrectly filled in.

A field day for Gehe's lawyers, then. The European Commission would like to say to yes to the British competition authorities, but technically it may be barred from doing so. Don't forget the politics of this, however. Brussels is at present trying to extend its remit for examining cross-border mergers by reducing the qualifying size. In this it is facing fierce resistance from both Britain and Germany. But if the EC agreed to hand back more cases to domestic competition authorities, Britain might just be persuaded to drop its opposition. Here's another good reason, therefore, why Brus-

sels might in this case be persuaded to bend the rules.

Competition law may be an arcane world, but most people are capable of understanding the concept of one law for UniChem, a British company, and an altogether different and less onerous one for Gehe, a German company. It is plainly not right.

Competition law may be an arcane world, but most people are capable of understanding the concept of one law for UniChem, a British company, and an altogether different and less onerous one for Gehe, a German company. It is plainly not right.

Competition law may be an arcane world, but most people are capable of understanding the concept of one law for UniChem, a British company, and an altogether different and less onerous one for Gehe, a German company. It is plainly not right.

Competition law may be an arcane world, but most people are capable of understanding the concept of one law for UniChem, a British company, and an altogether different and less onerous one for Gehe, a German company. It is plainly not right.

Labour attack on rail link is nonsense

It is not often, these days, that it is possible to write in support of a government initiative, but the ground on which Labour has chosen to attack the high speed rail link is so much nonsense. Certainly the delays and shifting of position which have characterised this project have been farcical. But to portray the whole thing as a gigantic giveaway to the private sector, as Clare Short, Labour's transport spokeswoman, does, is tish. Nobody would have even considered building this link without a very considerable direct Government grant. While some important assets – quite a lot of land, the Waterloo international terminal, St Pancras Station and a one-third interest in Eurostar – have been thrown in for good measure, they only have a value if it is possible to make money out of them. So far the state has failed, so why not give the private sector a go?

Lord Young to settle for £2.4m

MARY FAGAN
Industrial Correspondent

Lord Young of Graham is poised to accept a £2.4m compensation package following his ousting, in November as chairman of Cable & Wireless after a boardroom row with James Ross, who was also forced to leave the company. The expected agreement comes after months of bitter negotiation between the company and its former head, who is thought to have been demanding about £4m.

The deal for Lord Young includes the right to exercise share options which at yesterday's price would make him a profit of almost £2m. He is also likely to receive a further £400,000 in salary, bonuses and other benefits.

In structure the package is similar to that agreed with Mr. Ross, who agreed a £1.3m deal last week. The discussions with Lord Young are thought to have proved more delicate as he had no formal service contract with the company.

The size of the settlements have raised eyebrows in the City as the row between the two men became acrimonious and public, damaging the image of the group.

At the time, analysts said that the situation increased the vulnerability of C&W, which for months had been at the centre of takeover speculation. One commentator said that the reward seemed rather high for failing to get on with colleagues.

Shares in C&W closed at £4.52 yesterday, an increase on the opening price of 7.5p.

A spokesman for the group declined to comment on any deal with the former chairman. "Our position is that we have made an offer and are awaiting a response," he said.

However, it is thought that talks are drawing to a successful close and that Lord Young may use the money to establish a company advising business on investment overseas.

The debacle has left C&W without a chief executive.

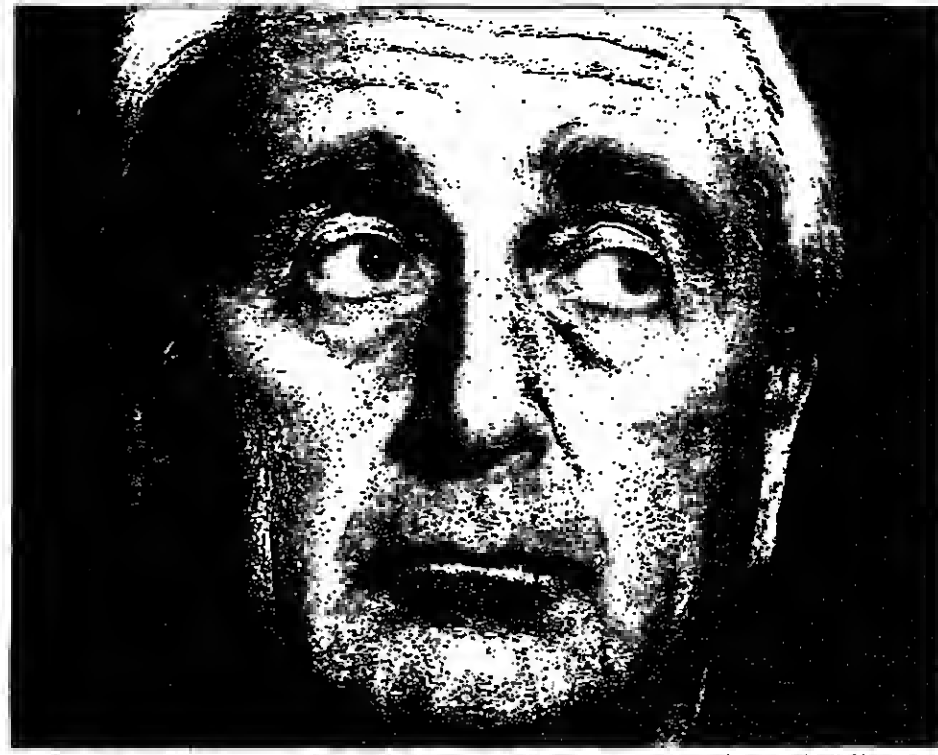
Duncan Lewis, former chief executive of its Mercury Communications subsidiary was in the running but is thought not to be on the shortlist.

Rod Olsen, the finance director who has been appointed acting chief executive, also ruled himself out.

The view is that the group is poised to appoint a foreigner to the post, possibly from a large US cable or telecommunications company. C&W recently took the step of changing its articles to allow a non-Briton to take the job.

Some City analysts still believe that the group is ripe for break-up. There has been speculation that BT may attempt a deal with AT&T of the US to acquire C&W and divide the spoils.

BT would not be allowed to have Mercury but would be interested in the substantial assets in the Far East and the Pacific region. AT&T, which is attempting to break into the UK telecommunications market, could use Mercury to leapfrog into a pole position.



Delicate discussions: Lord Young had no formal service contract with Cable & Wireless

Fidelity selling BET

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Fidelity, the global investment house, has been a heavy seller of shares in BET, the industrial services group facing a hostile £1.9bn bid from Rentokil.

The firm, the second largest shareholder in BET before the bid was announced last month, has reduced its stake from 5.17 per cent to about 3.3 per cent.

Mercury Asset Management, which held 1.7 per cent at the start of the bid battle, is also thought to have been a steady seller.

Share traders have said there has been heavy demand from the United States as

arbitrageurs piled into BET in the hope that Rentokil will increase its offer.

One analyst said that the move by the two investment firms suggested some doubts that Rentokil would increase its offer significantly.

"There seems to be a lot of hedging of bets here. BET had been a dog and it makes sense to cash in a few shares," the analyst said.

The offer is nine new Rentokil shares and £8 cash for every 20 BET shares, valuing BET at 190p a share at the start of the bid.

Meanwhile, BET is expected to publish its offer document until the middle of next week at the earliest.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Fortnum & Fyfe	2.53m (2.3m)	0.51m (0.58m)	4p (4.6p)	- (1)
Go-Ahead Group (H)	87.6m (48.7m)	6.69m (4.1m)	12.65p (12.03p)	1.85p (1.6p)
Henlys Group (F)	452m (340m)	25.3m (16.1m)	34.1p (25.9p)	12p (8.5p)
Memory Corp (F)	0.25m (1)	-1.95m (-1.05m)	-3.21p (-2.11p)	nil (1)
Sprague Consulting (F)	7.38m (6.02m)	0.90m (1.21m)	4.43p (6.29p)	4p (3.5p)
Synthesolys (F)	21.8m (28.4m)	7.84m (4.79m)	33.45p (16.05p)	0.75p
UK Estates (F)	- (1)	0.11m (0.53m)	0.11p (0.89p)	1p (1p)

(F) - Final (I) - Interim (H) - Nine months

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by Magnus Grimond

Homeworks pays off for MFI as sales creep up

On the face of it, yesterday's trading update from MFI signalled that at least one of the pressures affecting the furniture retailer was easing. Continuing sluggish retail demand in the UK has kept the bid on sales growth in 1995, an increase of 1.3 per cent reported at the half-way stage was not maintained into the third quarter.

The group says that sales were up 2 per cent between mid-November and the end of February, which includes the key post-Christmas selling period. With trading "poor" in the run-up to the festive season, that implies growth of nearer 4 to 5 per cent in the new year period. The news was welcomed by the stock market yesterday, which marked MFI's shares up higher to 158p.

But that may be premature jubilation. Depressed sales have been only part of the group's problem. Margins have been under pressure for some time from rising raw material prices. Hopes in December that reductions evident there would ease the situation now look overdone.

MFI indicated yesterday that although gross margins have recovered some of the ground lost in the first half, they will still be down on the year. It appears that lower costs are taking longer to feed through the buying chain than expected and the benefits will not be felt until next year.

Margins could end the year a full point lower than last year, making 1995/96 the third year in a row in which returns on sales have fallen.

Admittedly, there was better news from elsewhere yesterday. The initial roll-out of the new MFI Homeworks format, which extends beyond the traditional ranges to include beds, pots and pans and the like, has clearly been a success. Sales outperformed the rest of the chain by 12 per cent, triggering the next phase of the conversion programme which should see another 35 to 40 of the existing 185 chains changed to Homeworks.

France, meanwhile, has shrugged aside the strikes to record a 50 per cent increase in orders since Christmas. But the business is small and, given the record and the cloudy outlook in the UK, MFI shares remain overvalued on a forward rating of 20.

Henlys speeds ahead of rivals

Henlys shareholders who supported management in fending off a £30m bid from the rival motor dealer Cowie more than three years ago have been amply rewarded

for their loyalty. Since then, the shares have outperformed the rest of the stock market by over 450 per cent and put Cowie's own performance in the shade. Yesterday, the shares added 16p to 589p as the motor distributor and bus builder unveiled another cracking set of results. Pre-tax profits climbed 57 per cent to a new record of £25.3m in the 12 months to December.

The figures were boosted by some sure-footed acquisitions. The £31m half-share in Prevost Car, a Canadian bus maker bought by Henlys with Volvo, chipped in £4.5m to operating profits in just seven months.

Northern Counties, acquired at the same time, added £1.3m for an outlay of £1.2m. But more importantly, the latest results have borne out management's determination to build its position in the bus and coach market, despite what has turned out to be one of the worst recessions ever to hit the industry.

Stripping out acquisitions, underlying profits from buses and coaches soared ahead 69 per cent to £14.4m.

After seven lean years, Henlys has cashed in on last year's recovery, which saw coach sales leap 45 per cent and bus demand rise 23 per cent. But management deserves much of the credit for seeing the eventual end of the drought in orders caused by deregulation and recession, they have been patiently building market share.

From a standing start in 1991, Henlys has grabbed a market-leading position in buses in just three years. The impeccably-timed Northern acquisition, which took the group into double-deckers in a year when registrations doubled, added 10 points to its market share, taking it to 39 per cent.

Henlys now leads the combined UK bus and coach market and with bus fleets typically 13 to 15 years old, the outlook is bright, reflected in a £70m year-end order book.

The outlook for motors is less certain, but Henlys' distribution side did well to maintain underlying profits in another difficult year for the market and a cost-cutting programme should underpin future margins.

Profits of £33m this year would put the shares on a forward multiple of 15. Still reasonable value.

MFI: at a glance

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Five year record

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Share price

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

Market value: £921m, share price 158p

ARE YOUR PERSONAL FINANCES ON TARGET?

Personal financial planning means more than just having an array of investments, a tax-free savings account and shares in the odd utility company. If you haven't yet thought of avoiding inheritance tax, made a provision for long-term nursing care or even begun to check interest rates on a regular basis, you could well be missing out some important aspects of sound investment.

In the next issue of Investors Chronicle we examine in detail all the essential elements of financial planning to ensure you are well provided for, both now and in the

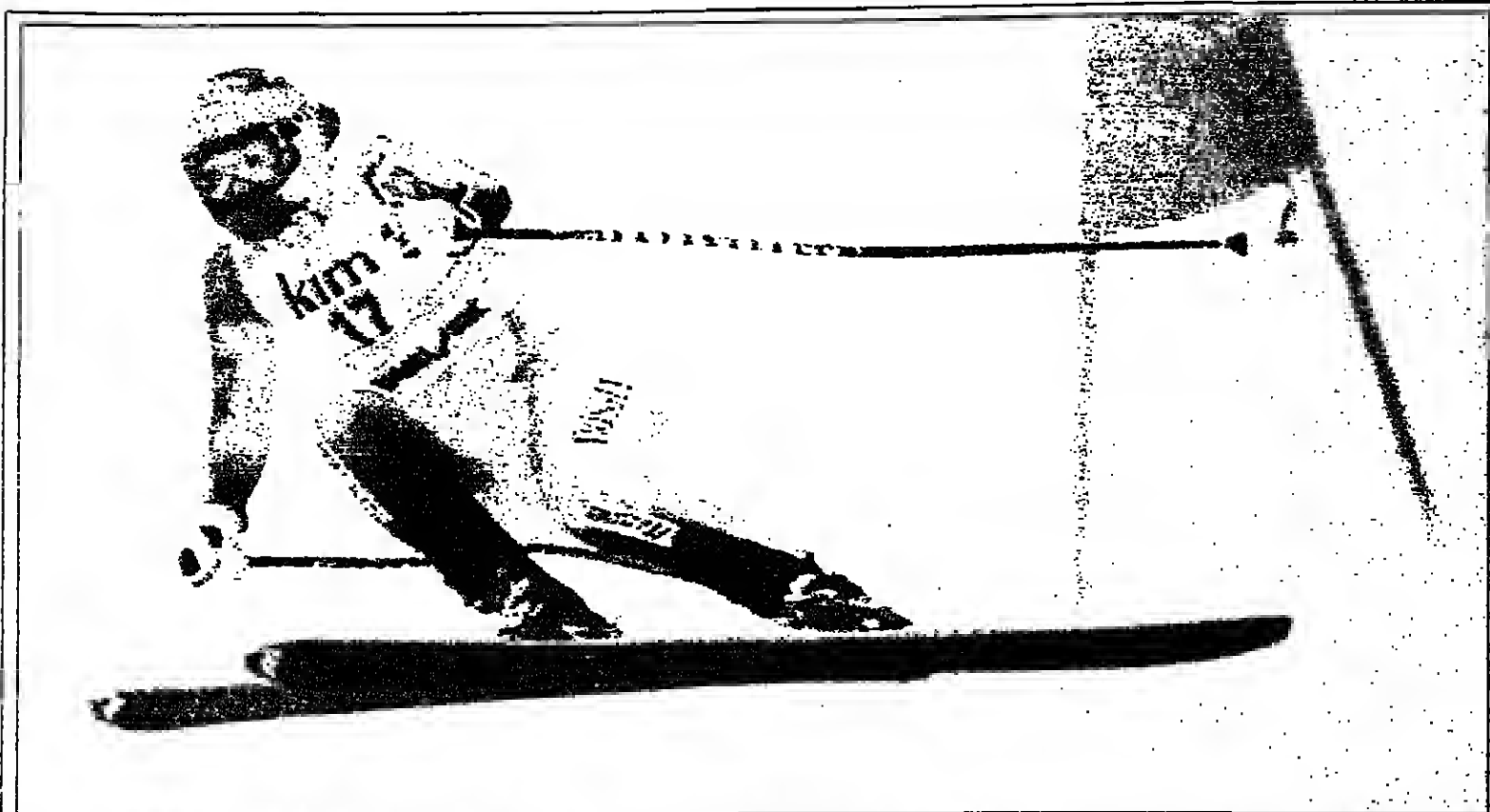
future. We'll advise you how to make the most of tax-breaks, help you to identify the investment products with the lowest charges, and show you how to pick the top performers amongst Peps, investment trusts and unit trusts.

So, if you've still to take out your Pep for 95/96, are having worries about self-assessment of tax or are simply wanting a few pointers for a more considered investment strategy, don't miss the Investors Chronicle guide to Personal Financial Planning with the latest issue.

On sale Friday 1st March. Price £2.00.

INVESTORS CHRONICLE
THE CITY INSIDE OUT

sport



Varvara Zelenskaya became the first Russian to win a World Cup event when she triumphed in the downhill competition in Narvik, Norway, yesterday. The American, Picabo Street, finished in second place but it was enough to give her a second downhill title. Photograph: Reuters

Benn back on familiar territory

Boxing

Victory by half a point over Thulane "Sugar Boy" Malina in their first meeting in Birmingham nearly four years ago was the prelude to a memorable and lucrative 41-month phase in Nigel Benn's career.

Benn beat Italy's Mauro Galvao in his next fight in Rome to land the World Boxing Council super-middleweight title and, second time around against the 36-year-old South African in the 11th defence of his title at the Newcastle Arena tonight, Benn knows exactly what is on his agenda — a big

money unification fight against Ireland's Steve Collins in late May or June.

Then, maybe, a match with the International Boxing Federation champion, Roy Jones, if the politics of the American cable networks can be overcome. Or perhaps a third fight with Chris Eubank if his arch-rival decides to make a ring return.

So the message is clear. Benn cannot afford to let the man from Ladysmith, Natal, run him so close this time. "At the end of the day everybody's entitled to one close decision at the office, but then I went out and put it all right," said the 32-year-old Benn. "I don't recall too much

about Malina apart from the fact that he's a strong boy, but I don't want to take anything away from him. He definitely wanted to win that night.

"We had a close fight and it could have gone either way, but I got it and I'm very thankful for that. I didn't have chance to train long enough for that one, but now I'm world champion I train hard for six to eight weeks properly. You'll see a new Nigel Benn, that's for sure.

"I think 1996 will go for me exactly as 1995. I'm not ready to relinquish my title — the belt is staying in England until the day I retire. I still feel new. I feel I can go as long as I want. I still

feel there are four or five good fights left in me. I don't like losing, and the thought of losing drives me on."

Malina has not fought since labouring to beat Leicester's Trevor Ambrose on the Benn-Vincenzo Nardiello undercard at the London Arena last July.

That was Malina's only fight in the past year, and only two contests in 18 months makes it puzzling why he claimed the WBC's mandatory challenger's spot. But Malina has, at least, had five successive wins since being outclassed and knocked out in six rounds by Jones in August 1993 — his only stoppage in 49 fights. This will be Malina's fourth

attempt to win a world title, having lost previously to Germany's Graciano Rocchigiani (IBF), the American Lindell Holmes (IBF) and Eubank (World Boxing Organisation) in the fight before he lost to Benn.

Joe Bugner's WBO International heavyweight title challenge against Brighton's Scott Welch will now go ahead in Berlin on 16 March. After two failed attempts to get Bugner licensed by the British Board of Control, the promoter Frank Warren has managed to get the fight switched to Germany. It will appear on the same show as Ralf Roedig's next WBO cruiserweight title defence.

Radcliffe misses out on trials

Athletics

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

A large field of runners will step out into a large field in Northumberland tomorrow in pursuit of a trip to South Africa. Sadly, but sensibly, Paula Radcliffe will not be among them.

The British Athletic Federation Cross-Country Championships at Stakeford, which form the trial for the World Championships in Cape Town on 23 March, will lack the Briton who has the best chance of an individual world medal, following her minor injury last weekend.

Having bruised and cut her knee on wooden steps during a race in Diekerk, Luxembourg, the 22-year-old Loughborough student informed the BAF that she did not want to risk running in a trial where the going is likely to be firm. Assuming the injury is not worse than expected,

she will take one of the two women's discretionary places available for Cape Town.

"It is not particularly welcome news," said Matt Frazer, secretary of the BAF cross-country commission. "But we understand what she is saying. She has more than proved her fitness in recent races."

Unlike last year, when the World Championships were held in Durham, this year's location offers the opportunity of timely warm-weather training, with the option of altitude training. This lure is one of the reasons why the depth of talent this time around is significantly greater.

In Radcliffe's absence, Lucy Elliott, Alison Wyeth, Suzanne Rigg, Liz Talbot, Angie Hulley, Vikkie McPherson and Sonia McGeorge will be among those seeking the first four automatic selection places.

The men's race includes the Commonwealth 10,000m champion, Rob Denmark, Adrian

Parry, Martin Jones, Jon Nuttall, Jon Brown, last year's European cross-country bronze medalist, Andrew Pearson, who is third in the World Cross Challenge ratings, and the man two places behind him, Chris Sweeney.

Keith Cullen and Gary Staines have both sustained recent injuries — Cullen hurting a hamstring in the Luxembourg race, Staines turning his ankle two weeks ago. They are likely to make late decisions on whether to hope for one of the two discretionary men's places rather than seek one of the automatic places for the first seven home.

Sweeney offered a personal analysis of the situation this week: "There are probably going to be four or five clear favourites for the side, and another two to four places up for grabs, with probably 20 guys struggling for them. I intend to be one of those 20."

Day of destiny for struggling clubs

Hockey

BILL COLWILL

It is quite possible that by tomorrow evening all the six clubs expecting to be relegated from the National League First Division will know their fate. Although Indian Gymkhana and Trojans can mathematically avoid the drop, the odds are that Bournville, St Albans, Hull and Stourport will have decided their destiny.

Tomorrow Indian Gymkhana entertain Barford Tigers, who are just two places above them but with an eight-point lead, while Trojans, a point adrift of Gymkhana, take the long trip to Hull who, should they lose this afternoon's rearranged game against the defending champions, Teddington, will be relegated along with the bottom club, Stourport.

The situation at the top is providing plenty of excitement. The current leaders, Southgate, may find the going tough away to a young Canterbury side and could drop points.

Second-placed Cancock are expected to win at home to Teddington, who are still without the injured Great Britain captain, Jason Laslett. Guildford, in third position, should have few problems away to Stourport, so the musical chairs at the top could continue.

The sport mourned the death yesterday from cancer of Yvonne Horner, a much respected former international umpire and coach. Her enthusiasm and commitment to the game will be greatly missed, particularly in her native Yorkshire and the Thirsk club.

HYPERION

2.10 Rowlandsons Charm 2.40 Saranov 3.10 Quality 3.45 Secret Spring 4.15 Stand Tall 4.45

Willie Rushton

GOING: Standard
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers are best in sprint.
Left-hand, sharp undulating course.
Course to SE of town on E1025. Longfield railway station (served by London Victoria) adjacent course. ADVICE: Spectators A 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 150, 155, 160, 165, 170, 175, 180, 185, 190, 195, 200, 205, 210, 215, 220, 225, 230, 235, 240, 245, 250, 255, 260, 265, 270, 275, 280, 285, 290, 295, 300, 305, 310, 315, 320, 325, 330, 335, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 365, 370, 375, 380, 385, 390, 395, 400, 405, 410, 415, 420, 425, 430, 435, 440, 445, 450, 455, 460, 465, 470, 475, 480, 485, 490, 495, 500, 505, 510, 515, 520, 525, 530, 535, 540, 545, 550, 555, 560, 565, 570, 575, 580, 585, 590, 595, 600, 605, 610, 615, 620, 625, 630, 635, 640, 645, 650, 655, 660, 665, 670, 675, 680, 685, 690, 695, 700, 705, 710, 715, 720, 725, 730, 735, 740, 745, 750, 755, 760, 765, 770, 775, 780, 785, 790, 795, 800, 805, 810, 815, 820, 825, 830, 835, 840, 845, 850, 855, 860, 865, 870, 875, 880, 885, 890, 895, 900, 905, 910, 915, 920, 925, 930, 935, 940, 945, 950, 955, 960, 965, 970, 975, 980, 985, 990, 995, 1000, 1005, 1010, 1015, 1020, 1025, 1030, 1035, 1040, 1045, 1050, 1055, 1060, 1065, 1070, 1075, 1080, 1085, 1090, 1095, 1100, 1105, 1110, 1115, 1120, 1125, 1130, 1135, 1140, 1145, 1150, 1155, 1160, 1165, 1170, 1175, 1180, 1185, 1190, 1195, 1200, 1205, 1210, 1215, 1220, 1225, 1230, 1235, 1240, 1245, 1250, 1255, 1260, 1265, 1270, 1275, 1280, 1285, 1290, 1295, 1300, 1305, 1310, 1315, 1320, 1325, 1330, 1335, 1340, 1345, 1350, 1355, 1360, 1365, 1370, 1375, 1380, 1385, 1390, 1395, 1400, 1405, 1410, 1415, 1420, 1425, 1430, 1435, 1440, 1445, 1450, 1455, 1460, 1465, 1470, 1475, 1480, 1485, 1490, 1495, 1500, 1505, 1510, 1515, 1520, 1525, 1530, 1535, 1540, 1545, 1550, 1555, 1560, 1565, 1570, 1575, 1580, 1585, 1590, 1595, 1600, 1605, 1610, 1615, 1620, 1625, 1630, 1635, 1640, 1645, 1650, 1655, 1660, 1665, 1670, 1675, 1680, 1685, 1690, 1695, 1700, 1705, 1710, 1715, 1720, 1725, 1730, 1735, 1740, 1745, 1750, 1755, 1760, 1765, 1770, 1775, 1780, 1785, 1790, 1795, 1800, 1805, 1810, 1815, 1820, 1825, 1830, 1835, 1840, 1845, 1850, 1855, 1860, 1865, 1870, 1875, 1880, 1885, 1890, 1895, 1900, 1905, 1910, 1915, 1920, 1925, 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020, 2025, 2030, 2035, 2040, 2045, 2050, 2055, 2060, 2065, 2070, 2075, 2080, 2085, 2090, 2095, 2100, 2105, 2110, 2115, 2120, 2125, 2130, 2135, 2140, 2145, 2150, 2155, 2160, 2165, 2170, 2175, 2180, 2185, 2190, 2195, 2200, 2205, 2210, 2215, 2220, 2225, 2230, 2235, 2240, 2245, 2250, 2255, 2260, 2265, 2270, 2275, 2280, 2285, 2290, 2295, 2300, 2305, 2310, 2315, 2320, 2325, 2330, 2335, 2340, 2345, 2350, 2355, 2360, 2365, 2370, 2375, 2380, 2385, 2390, 2395, 2400, 2405, 2410, 2415, 2420, 2425, 2430, 2435, 2440, 2445, 2450, 2455, 2460, 2465, 2470, 2475, 2480, 2485, 2490, 2495, 2500, 2505, 2510, 2515, 2520, 2525, 2530, 2535, 2540, 2545, 2550, 2555, 2560, 2565, 2570, 2575, 2580, 2585, 2590, 2595, 2600, 2605, 2610, 2615, 2620, 2625, 2630, 2635, 2640, 2645, 2650, 2655, 2660, 2665, 2670, 2675, 2680, 2685, 2690, 2695, 2700, 2705, 2710, 2715, 2720, 2725, 2730, 2735, 2740, 2745, 2750, 2755, 2760, 2765, 2770, 2775, 2780, 2785, 2790, 2795, 2800, 2805, 2810, 2815, 2820, 2825, 2830, 2835, 2840, 2845, 2850, 2855, 2860, 2865, 2870, 2875, 2880, 2885, 2890, 2895, 2900, 2905, 2910, 2915, 2920, 2925, 2930, 2935, 2940, 2945, 2950, 2955, 2960, 2965, 2970, 2975, 2980, 2985, 2990, 2995, 3000, 3005, 3010, 3015, 3020, 3025, 3030, 3035, 3040, 3045, 3050, 3055, 3060, 3065, 3070, 3075, 3080, 3085, 3090, 3095, 3100, 3105, 3110, 3115, 3120, 3125, 3130, 3135, 3140, 3145, 3150, 3155, 3160, 3165, 3170, 3175, 3180, 3185, 3190, 3195, 3200, 3205, 3210, 3215, 3220, 3225, 3230, 3235, 3240, 3245, 3250, 3255, 3260, 3265, 3270, 3275, 3280, 3285, 3290, 3295, 3300, 3305, 3310, 3315, 3320, 3325, 3330, 3335, 3340, 3345, 3350, 3355, 3360, 3365, 3370, 3375, 3380, 3385, 3390, 3395, 3400, 3405, 3410, 3415, 3420, 3425, 3430, 3435, 3440, 3445, 3450, 3455, 3460, 3465, 3470, 3475, 3480, 3485, 3490, 3495, 3500, 3505, 3510, 3515, 3520, 3525, 3530, 3535, 3540, 3545, 3550, 3555, 3560, 3565, 3570, 3575, 3580, 3585, 3590, 3595, 3600, 3605, 3610, 3615, 3620, 3625, 3630, 3635, 3640, 3645, 3650, 3655, 3660, 3665, 3670, 3675, 3680, 3685, 3690, 3695, 3700, 3705, 3710, 3715, 3720, 3725, 3730, 3735, 3740, 3745, 3750, 3755, 3760, 3765, 3770, 3775, 3780, 3785, 3790, 3795, 3800, 3805, 3810, 3815, 3820, 3825, 3830, 3835, 3840, 3845, 3850, 3855, 3860, 3865, 3870, 3875, 3880, 3885, 3890, 3895, 3900, 3905, 3910, 3915, 3920, 3925, 3930, 3935, 3940, 3945, 3950, 3955, 3960, 3965, 3970, 3975, 3980, 3985, 3990, 3995, 4000, 4005, 4010, 4015, 4020, 4025, 4030, 4035, 4040, 4045, 4050, 4055, 4060, 4065, 4070, 4075, 4080, 4085, 4090, 4095, 4100, 4105, 4110, 4115, 4120, 4125, 4130, 4135, 4140, 4145, 4150, 4155, 4160, 4165, 4170, 4175, 4180, 4185, 4190, 4195, 4200, 4205, 4210, 4215, 4220, 4225, 4230, 4235, 4240, 4245, 4250, 4255, 4260, 4265, 4270, 4275, 4280, 4285, 4290, 4295, 4300, 4305, 4310, 4315, 4320, 4325, 4330, 4335, 4340, 4345, 4350, 4355, 4360, 4365, 4370, 4375, 4380, 4385, 4390, 4395, 4400, 4405, 4410, 4415, 4420, 4425, 4430, 4435, 4440, 4445, 4450, 4455, 4460, 4465, 4470, 4475, 4480, 4485, 4490, 4495, 4500, 4505, 4510, 4515, 4520, 4525, 4530, 4535, 4540, 4545, 4550, 4555, 4560, 4565, 4570, 4575, 4580, 4585, 4590, 4595, 4600, 4605, 4610, 4615, 4620, 4625, 4630, 4635, 4640, 4645, 4650, 4655, 4660, 4665, 4670, 4675, 4680, 4685, 4690, 4695, 4700, 4705, 4710, 4715, 4720, 4725, 4730, 4735, 4740, 4745, 4750, 4755, 4760, 4765, 4770, 4775, 4780, 4785, 4790, 4795, 4800, 4805, 4810, 4815, 4820, 4825, 4830, 4835, 4840, 4845, 4850, 4855, 4860, 4865, 4870, 4875, 4880, 4885, 4890, 4895, 4900, 4905, 4910, 4915, 4920, 4925, 4930, 4935, 4940, 4945, 4950, 4955, 4960, 4965, 4970, 4975, 4980, 4985, 4990, 4995, 5000, 5005, 5010, 5015, 5020, 5025, 5030, 5035, 5040, 5045, 5050, 5055, 5060, 5065, 5070, 5075, 5080, 5085, 5090, 5095, 5100, 5105, 5110, 5115, 5120, 5125, 5130, 5135, 5140, 5145, 5150, 5155, 5160, 5165, 5170, 5175, 5180, 5185, 5190, 5195, 5200, 5205, 5210, 5215, 5220, 5225, 5230, 5235, 5240, 5245, 5250, 5255, 5260, 5265, 5270, 5275, 5280, 5285, 5290, 5295, 5300, 5305, 5310, 5315, 5320, 5325, 5330, 5335, 5340, 5345, 5350, 5355, 5360, 5365, 5370, 5375, 5380, 5385, 5390, 5395, 5400, 5405, 5410, 5415, 5420, 5425, 5430, 5435, 5440, 5445, 5450, 5455, 5460, 5465, 5470, 5475, 5480, 5485, 5490, 5495, 5500, 5505, 5510, 5515, 5520, 5525, 5530, 5535, 5540, 5545, 5550, 5555, 5560, 5565, 5570, 5575, 5580, 5585, 5590, 5595, 5600, 5605, 5610, 5615, 5620, 5625, 5630, 5635, 5640, 5645, 5650, 5655, 5660, 5665, 5670, 5675, 5680, 5685, 5690, 5695, 5700, 5705, 5710, 5715, 5720, 5725, 5730, 5735, 5740, 5745, 5750, 5755, 5760, 5765, 5770, 5775, 5780, 5785, 5790, 5795, 5800, 5805, 5810, 5815, 5820, 5825, 5830, 5835, 5840, 5845, 5850, 5855, 5860, 5865, 5870, 5875, 5880, 5885, 5890, 5895, 5900, 5905, 5910, 5915, 5920, 5925, 5930, 5935, 5940, 5945, 5950, 5955, 5960, 5965, 5970, 5975, 5980, 5985, 5990, 5995, 6000, 6005, 6010, 6015, 6020, 6025, 6030, 6035, 6040, 6045, 6050, 6055, 6060, 6065, 6070, 6075, 6080, 6085, 6090, 6095, 6100, 6105, 6110, 6115, 6120, 6125, 6130, 6135, 6140, 6145, 6150, 6155, 6160, 6165, 6170, 6175, 6180, 6185, 6190, 6195, 6200, 6205, 6210, 6215, 6220, 6225, 6230, 6235, 6240, 6245, 6250, 6255, 6260, 6265, 6270, 6275, 6280, 6285, 6290, 6295, 6300, 6305, 6310, 6315, 6320, 6325, 6330, 6335, 6340, 6345, 6350, 6355, 6360, 6365, 6370, 6375, 6380, 6385, 6390, 6395, 6400, 6405, 6410, 6415, 6420, 6425, 6430, 6435, 6440, 6445, 6450, 6455, 6460, 6465, 6470, 6475, 6480, 6485, 6490, 6495, 6500, 6505, 6510, 6515, 6520, 6525, 6530, 6535, 6540, 6545, 6550, 6555, 6560, 6565, 6570, 6575, 6580, 6585, 6590, 6595, 6600, 6605, 6610, 6615, 6620, 6625, 6630, 6635, 6640, 6645, 6650, 6655, 6660, 6665, 6670, 6675, 6680, 6685, 6690, 6695, 6700, 6705, 6710, 6715, 6720, 6725, 6730, 6735, 6740, 6745, 6750, 6755, 6760, 6765, 6770, 6775, 6780, 6785, 6790, 6795, 6800, 6805, 6810, 6815, 6820, 6825, 6830, 6835, 6840, 6845, 6850, 6855, 6860, 6865, 6870, 6875, 6880, 6885, 6890, 6895, 6900, 6905, 6910, 6915, 6920, 6925, 6930, 6935, 6940, 6945, 6950, 6955, 6960, 6965, 6970, 6975, 6980, 6985, 6990, 6995, 7000, 7005, 7010, 7015, 7020, 7025, 7030, 7035, 7040, 7045, 7050, 7055, 7060, 7065, 7070, 7075, 7080, 7085, 7090, 7095, 7100, 7105, 7110, 7115, 7120, 7125, 7130, 7135, 7140, 7145, 7150, 7155, 7160, 7165, 7170, 7175, 7180, 7185, 7190, 7195, 7200, 7205, 7210, 7215, 7220, 7225, 7230, 7235, 7240, 7245, 7250, 7255, 7260, 7265, 7270, 7275, 7280, 7285, 7290, 7295, 7300, 7305, 7310, 7315, 7320, 7325, 7330, 7335, 7340, 7345, 7350, 7355, 7360, 7365, 7370, 7375, 7380, 7385, 7390, 7395, 7400, 7405, 7410, 7415, 7420, 7425, 7430, 7435, 7440, 7445, 7450, 7455, 7460, 7465, 7470, 7475, 7480, 7485, 7490, 7495, 7500, 7505, 7510, 7515, 7520, 7525, 7530, 7535, 7540, 7545, 7550, 7555, 7560, 7565, 7570, 7575, 7580, 7585, 7590, 7595, 7600, 7605, 7610, 7615, 7620, 7625, 7630, 7635, 7640, 7645, 7650, 7655, 7660, 7665, 7670, 7675, 7

sport

Still football crazy after all these years

Peter Beardsley has been seen and done most things, but he still can't wait for Monday's game with Manchester United. He told Glenn Moore why

He stayed behind for extra training, he collected up the cones and markers, and with Les Ferdinand, he was still signing autographs long after most of his team-mates were showered and changed. Newcastle may be on the brink of one of their most important matches in their recent history, but for Peter Beardsley yesterday, it was business as usual. When Alex Ferguson suggested Newcastle will crack under the pressure of the title run-in, it was not Peter Beardsley he had in mind. Alone among the Newcastle team to face Manchester United at St James' Park on Monday night, he already has an English championship medal in his locker - two of them. He also carries the bitter memory of twice finishing second. He has been there, done that, and always with a certain style.

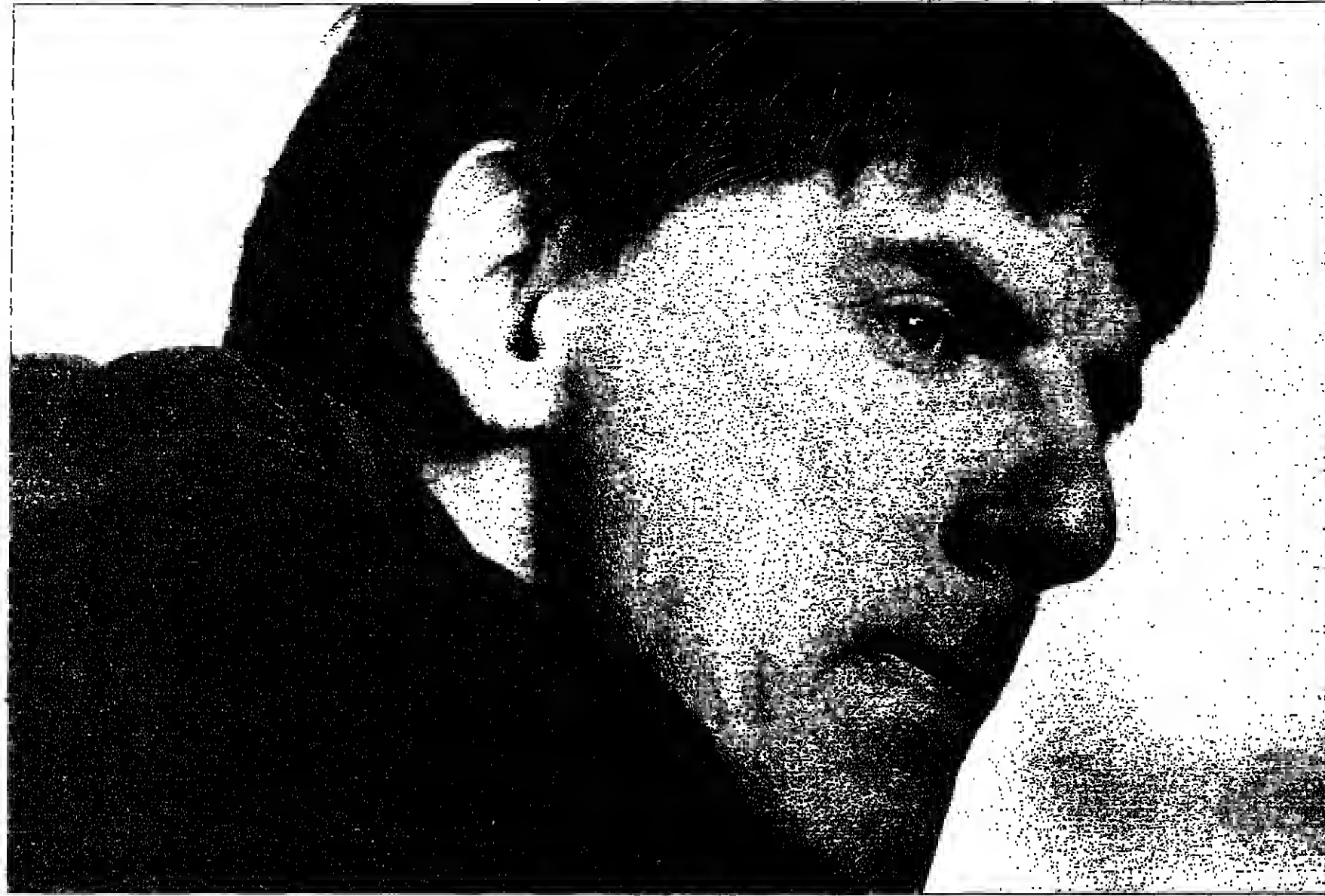
Thus, while the club has adopted an out-of-character siege mentality this week, Beardsley remains unaffected. An interview request was readily agreed to, with the proviso, made almost with embarrassment, that Kevin Keegan would have to grant permission first.

Keegan trusts his captain and, having finally left the pitch at Durham University's Maiden Castle complex yesterday, Beardsley was able to explain how Monday's match excites, rather than intimidates, "I can't wait," he said. "If you cannot look forward to this there is no point in being in the game. If someone told me at the beginning of the season: 'You will be four points clear at the beginning of March, playing the second-placed team to get seven clear, I would have been delighted.'"

"It becomes more enjoyable as you go on. At my age (35) everything is a bonus and I am in a position everybody would like to be in - captain of your home-town club, going for something like this."

A draw would be acceptable to Newcastle, but Beardsley is well aware of the danger of settling for a stalemate in advance.

"The two years I won the title with Liverpool, we did quite comfortably. The close one was when Arsenal won with the last kick of the season. We did not need to win the game, they did. They took a few risks and got away with it. In many



Peter Beardsley at Newcastle United's training ground yesterday: 'It becomes more enjoyable as you go on'

Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

ways it is better chasing than being in the lead. We can afford a draw on Monday but we are not a team to go looking for one. Especially at home, we have won 13 out of 13 and we are looking for 19 out of 19."

Beardsley has a particular incentive to do well. He came late to stardom - rejected by Gillingham and Cambridge, he had a spell of unemployment and then worked in an engineering factory. Carlisle discovered him at 18 and he also played for Vancouver Whitecaps before, in 1982, he appeared to have broken into the big time. Manchester United, impressed by Beardsley's display against them in a tour match (including a goal in 13 seconds - after United had kicked off) signed him.

However, in a frustrating season

he played just one game, a League Cup tie against Bournemouth, before Ron Atkinson allowed him to return to Canada. It was another two seasons before, at the age of 23, he was to play in the top flight with Newcastle. Beardsley maintains he gets on well with Atkinson, but believes he was never given a chance.

"It is always special to play against Manchester United but not in the way it is with Liverpool and Everton, where I played in the first team. A lot of the Manchester United fans probably do not remember I was there. But it is the biggest club in the country, the place is special and the people are - Brian Kidd, Norman Davies (the kit man) Paddy who were there when I was there."

From Vancouver Beardsley

joined Newcastle, then Liverpool, but he never forgot the early years. "Working in a factory helped me realise how lucky I am. Now the

'At my age all this is a bonus and I am in a position everybody would like to be in'

money is coming in I am able to look after my family better than I was able to be looked after. I appreciate what I have got."

He is in no hurry to let it go.

Last week Beardsley was Newcastle's best player in the 3-3 draw with Manchester City. Prompting and providing, his skills stood comparison with David Ginola and Faustino Asprilla. He remains in Terry Venables' plans, and with Nick Barmby suffering a loss of form, may yet be a key player in England's Euro 96 challenge.

"I am hopeful rather than confident. I want to be there but I am not convinced I will be - he [Terry Venables] has so much choice. It will be like a mini-World Cup."

"I am trying to stay a part of it as long as possible. Because the game has got quicker the older players, who use their heads, can stay in the game longer. The likes of Gordon Strachan and Ray Wilkins, who have clever brains, make the

ball do the work." The latter pair make much of their devotion to diet - but Beardsley is fuelled by natural fitness and enthusiasm.

"I have never drunk alcohol [he does not like the taste] but I eat what I want. When we go away on a Friday night, I always have chicken soup and roast chicken, other than that I eat what the kids at home eat. I think it is because I train the way I do. When I pack it in I may have to be careful. I eat a fair bit of chocolate. I have been lucky with injuries - I have not had a serious operation."

"The enthusiasm is the easiest part of the game. It is easy for anybody to run about and chase people. The kids in the dressing room keep you young - you have to be on your toes otherwise they take it

out of you. I would miss that atmosphere more than anything."

With Asprilla coming in to partner Les Ferdinand, Beardsley played in a more withdrawn role against City. Keegan has long envisaged Beardsley further prolonging his career by making such a move, but the player himself is less keen.

"Ideally, I would rather be up front but we have such a good squad now you have to be happy to play anywhere. Many people would give their right arm to be in my position, wherever it is in the team. The boss knows I will accept it and make the most of it. Last week I felt I played really well there. It sounds big-headed but I did not give the ball away many times, and I was always there trying to help."

"I do not know what will happen on Monday. Rob Lee will be back so, whether he alters the balance and plays four at the back or leaves out a midfielder, I do not know. He has some decisions to make. He will not tell us until seven o'clock on Monday night. That is always the way - he did not tell us on Saturday until two o'clock."

"I do not know how the game will go. I have a horrible feeling it will be an anticlimax. Everyone is talking about the game of the season - and in terms of what is at stake it is going to be - but it might not be what people expect. It is a 4-4 draw everybody will be delighted - but I have a sneaking feeling it could be a 1-1."

"They have got to be positive and, what I have seen them away from home, on Sky, they have been. They have so much pace in the side. They can adapt to any situation - hopefully, with so much depth in the squad, we can as well."

"[Eric] Cantona is on a different planet, he is that special. It is nice for me that people say he plays the same role. It is a compliment to me if people say we are on the same level."

"I think he and Coley [Andy Cole] will be the top pair in the country next season. We will see the real Andy Cole. He will have settled in - he has just had a baby, which takes some getting used to - and he and Cantona will have the whole season together."

By then Beardsley hopes to be playing in the Champions League. That would be unbelievable, especially up here. We have not won the League since 1928. We have not been to Wembley for 20 years. To lift the Premiership trophy as the captain of this club would be special. The first trophy is always the hardest to win."

First, however, there is Manchester United to deal with.

City trial for second Georgian

Manic Monday looms on Tuesday, but more than a third of the sides trailing the Uniteds of Newcastle and Manchester will today be concentrating on being clear of the Premiership's bottom three by mid-May rather than pondering the destination of the championship.

Relegation, with the lost face and finance it entails, could be catastrophic for Manchester City. The urgency of their plight yesterday prompted Alan Ball to sign a second Georgian international, Mikhail Kavashvili, on trial from Spartak Vladikavkaz with a view to a £1.5m deal.

Kavashvili, a striker recommended to Ball by Georgi Kinkladze - with whom he played for Dinamo Tbilisi last season - is not eligible to face Blackburn. Nevertheless his arrival suggests City aim to survive playing with freedom rather than fear.

Encouraged by having scored three times against champions-elect Newcastle a week ago, when Kavashvili virtually was overshadowed by the Curie-Asprilla leads, they may find the champions' travel sickness makes them ideal follow-up opponents.

City occupy the highest of the relegation places, although they have the same points tally (25) as the three clubs immediately above them. Sheffield Wednesday, who tackle a Belford-bound Nottingham Forest with a 7-1 home humiliation to avenge, have only four more.

Phil Shaw looks forward to an eventful programme of matches over the weekend

Apart from City, Coventry arguably have most to lose. They have enjoyed 29 years' unbroken membership of the top division and allowed Ron Atkinson to spend unprecedented sums to maintain it. Against West Ham, the form of newcomers Eoin Jess and Liam Daish is likely to come under even more intense scrutiny after the revelation that a Labour MP put £5m towards transfers.

Superior goal difference makes Southampton the best-

Rangers pursue Riedle

Scottish football

Rangers' Europe-wide pursuit of new talent has turned to the German Bundesliga and Borussia Dortmund's experienced international striker, Karlheinz Riedle, writes Rupert Meehan. Walter Smith, the first manager, is keen to sign Riedle, who played with Paul Gascoigne at Lazio in Italy. On Thursday Smith spent £1.5m on the Danish international striker, Erik Bo Andersen, from Aalborg.

Rangers have reportedly offered a £2m package to Riedle, who will be out of contract this summer. However, Dortmund

may offer him a new deal. The Scottish champions have also been checking out another German international, Bayer Leverkusen's Ulf Kirsten, and a German-based Dane, Mikkel Beek of Fortuna Cologne.

Andersen is due to make his Rangers debut at Hibernian tomorrow. Celtic, who can draw level on points with Rangers at the top of the Premier Division if they beat Hearts at home today, are also interested in Kirsten but may drop plans to sign the Portuguese international, Jorge Cadete, from Sporting Lisbon after they discovered yesterday the striker is not a free agent, as had been thought, but could cost up to £2m.

entire life. Ever since my mum took me to see them play Manchester United in 1971, they have consistently failed me. She wanted to see George Best, and see him she did, watching merrily around our leaden-footed defenders.

Someone should have taken me to one side and said: "Son, don't waste your life with this mob. They'll lead you on, give you a whiff of success and then put three in their own net in the last five minutes."

But I wouldn't be told. Autoglass Trophy Final 1994, first time at Wembley since before the war, the entire town in London to see them, and they lose on penalties. To Swansea.

McGinlay and Alan Stubbs are recalled from the bench at Leeds, for whom Tomas Broin starts for the first time since 31 January. Whether Howard Wilkinson lets him finish the match is another matter.

Queen's Park Rangers are being written off with 21 points, perhaps prematurely in the age of three points for a win. However, a 100 per cent record in London derbies this season (eight games, eight defeats) does not augur well for Arsenal's visit.

Villa's appearance on the fringe of the title race is an example to all the strugglers. After avoiding relegation on the final day last season, they go to Liverpool tomorrow with one Wembley place secure, another possible and a good chance of qualifying for Europe via the Premiership. Liverpool, 2-0 victors at Villa Park a month ago, must win to keep the pressure on the top two.

It is an important weekend in the First Division too, with the leaders Derby putting a long unbeaten run against fourth-placed Huddersfield, who boast just one post-war win at the Baseball Ground. Derby may look assured of promotion, but Sunderland and Charlton have games in hand.

Stoke, in fifth place despite restrictions on Lou Macari's spending power, will also be strong candidates for one of the two automatic berths if they see off the sixth club, Barnsley.

Why? I drank out of the mug. I bloody did. That's how...

Here's a question. What team has come from behind by the biggest margin to win a League game? Answer: Charlton Athletic, 6-1 down at Huddersfield, where else, with 20 minutes to go. Result? 7-6 to Charlton. This was in the 1950s - I wasn't even born, you buffoons. How could I have touched the lucky plate?

But Huddersfield are challenging for promotion to the Premiership now, and we even have a fancy new stadium, do we not? Well, yes, but we're not fooled. Promotion last season was won by playing Neil Warnock long-ball ping-pong, we're

FA's push for rule change

Football

NICK DUXBURY

Glenn Hoddle's phone call to Arsenal asking for Ian Wright's home number met with a unequivocal rebuff from Bruce Rioch. "I told him that Ian is not on the transfer list and is not for sale," the Arsenal manager said.

Hoddle's interest in taking the Gunners striker and Highbury idol to Chelsea for £2.5m had been aroused by press speculation that Wright's first-team place might not be secure, with Rioch having reportedly been to France to run his eye over Patrice Loko, the Paris St-Germain forward. A scouting outing that Rioch yesterday denied had taken place.

Wright has escaped with a censure by the Football Association over his "little Hitler" comment about referees. Rioch was "delighted" at the outcome but added the rider that "it's down to Ian as far as discipline is concerned. I think we have seen Cantona address the problem very well to date."

Kevin Keegan, who has been keeping a low profile in advance of Monday's meeting with Manchester United, yesterday broke cover to defend Faustino Asprilla and attack television's role in disciplinary matters.

The Newcastle manager, speaking for the first time since his £7.5m signing was charged with two counts of misconduct following the game against Manchester City, said that trial by television was "a very dangerous road" to go down.

"If it's happening to every other team then that's fine," he said. "But it's not fine if one or two teams are going to be involved, especially as the chances are that it is the top teams which are going to be shown more on television."

As for Asprilla, Keegan will be standing by his man. "After all I'm the guy who went out there and signed him," he said. Regi Blinker, the Dutch international winger, has agreed a three-and-a-half year contract with Sheffield Wednesday. Blinker, 26, is rated at around £1m by Wednesday, who are now ironing out the financial details with Feyenoord.

Steve Claridge finally completed a £1.2m move to Leicester, complaining that he "wouldn't treat my dog the way I have been treated" by the Birmingham manager, Barry Fry. The Claridge cash did not stay long in Blues' coffers, with Fry spending £500,000 on Andy Legg and Paul Devlin from Notts County.

Southend have signed the Dutch striker Jeroen Boere from Crystal Palace for £150,000.

Hoddle's move for Wright rejected

Football

NICK DUXBURY

Glenn Hoddle's phone call to Arsenal asking for Ian Wright's home number met with a unequivocal rebuff from Bruce Rioch. "I told him that Ian is not on the transfer list and is not for sale," the Arsenal manager said.

Hoddle's interest in taking the Gunners striker and Highbury idol to Chelsea for £2.5m had been aroused by press speculation that Wright's first-team place might not be secure, with Rioch having reportedly been to France to run his eye over Patrice Loko, the Paris St-Germain forward. A scouting outing that Rioch yesterday denied had taken place.

Wright has escaped with a censure by the Football Association over his "little Hitler" comment about referees. Rioch was "delighted" at the outcome but added the rider that "it's down to Ian as far as discipline is concerned. I think we have seen Cantona address the problem very well to date."

Kevin Keegan, who has been keeping a low profile in advance of Monday's meeting with Manchester United, yesterday broke cover to defend Faustino Asprilla and attack television's role in disciplinary matters.

The Newcastle manager, speaking for the first time since his £7.5m signing was charged with two counts of misconduct following the game against Manchester City, said that trial by television was "a very dangerous road" to go down.

"If it's happening to every other team then that's fine," he said. "But it's not fine if one or two teams are going to be involved, especially as the chances are that it is the top teams which are going to be shown more on television."

As for Asprilla, Keegan will be standing by his man. "After all I'm the guy who went out there and signed him," he said. Regi Blinker, the Dutch international winger, has agreed a three-and-a-half year contract with Sheffield Wednesday. Blinker, 26, is rated at around £1m by Wednesday, who are now ironing out the financial details with Feyenoord.

Steve Claridge finally completed a £1.2m move to Leicester, complaining that he "wouldn't treat my dog the way I have been treated" by the Birmingham manager, Barry Fry. The Claridge cash did not stay long in Blues' coffers, with Fry spending £500,000 on Andy Legg and Paul Devlin from Notts County.

Southend have signed the Dutch striker Jeroen Boere from Crystal Palace for £150,000.

Team news

TODAY

Coventry v West Ham
Coventry will have Brown and Williams back after suspension, while manager Alex Ferguson is likely to start a new injury. West Ham's Chris Turner has been recovered from the ankle problem that kept him out of action last week, and is expected to start. Michael Morris is also back in the squad after injury.

Leeds v Bolton
Bolton may replace Morrison in the Leeds starting line-up while defenders Borjesson, Johnson (knee) and Pennington (leg) are ruled out and Kelly (ankle) is a doubt. Leeds' defender, who has been out since last week, is a doubt. Leeds' defender, who has been out since last week, is a doubt.

Man City v Blackburn
City have Fitts and Portlock available after suspension. Blackburn's defender, who has been out since last week, is a doubt. Blackburn's defender, who has been out since last week, is a doubt.

Sheff Wed v Everton
Sheff Wed's defender, who has been out since last week, is a doubt. Everton's defender, who has been out since last week, is a doubt.

Sheff Wed v Notts Forest
Sheff Wed's defender, who has been out since last week, is a doubt. Notts Forest's defender, who has been out since last week, is a doubt.

Sheff Wed v Southampton
Sheff Wed's defender, who has been out since last week, is a doubt. Southampton's defender, who has been out since last week, is a doubt.

Sheff Wed v Chelsea
Sheff Wed's defender, who has been out since last week, is a doubt. Chelsea's defender, who has been out since last week, is a doubt.

Liverpool v Aston Villa
Liverpool's defender, who has been out since last week, is a doubt. Aston Villa's defender, who has been out since last week, is a doubt.

They'll put three in their own net in the last five minutes

They did it again. Lost 3-1 at Wembley in the fifth-round replay, ruining their best showing in the FA Cup for 25 years. Correct me if I'm wrong: 25 years ago, weren't Wembley down with team in the Spud-U-Like League Third Division South?

We, on the other hand, are a premier team: we've won the First Division (three times in a row, actually) and the Cup; we've got a proper strip, with nice blue and white stripes; even proper players like Denis Law have turned out for us.

Denis Law! The icon who invented that sticking-up-your-arm-in-the-air business when you score a goal didn't do that at Selhurst Park.

I drink out of the lucky mug all week, touch the team calendar every Saturday, rub the common-virtue plate ("Second Division Play-Off Winners 1967 - Back in the Big Time") and still they fail me. In the first match we were 2-1 up in the third minute of injury time, and we still let them equalise.

Alan Hansen even said it was our fault. We're on *Match of the Day* for the first time in donkey's years, and while it's "plucky" Preston or "hard-done-by" Huddersfield, we're "naïve" - a point he rams home by showing 133 clips of naïve play by a team 2-1 up with no time left on the clock.

They've been doing this my

FAN'S EYE VIEW
No 139
Huddersfield
Jules Brown

Swansea are Welsh - shouldn't even be in the League.

Take the Second Division play-offs against Peterborough a couple of years earlier. By some mysterious hand-of-God process, Huddersfield even contrived to win the first leg away from home. Then they managed to lose the home leg... How could this happen?

not big fans of that in Huddersfield, where we like to think of ourselves as skilled artists.

And the stadium... Building of the Year in 1993, but we can't even do that right, because until they finish the far end, all the visiting fans get to taunt us with chants of: "Three stands, you've only got three stands."

Maybe, just maybe, the new manager Brian Horton is going to change all our lives. He's taught some of the players not to kick the ball quite so high, and he's even turned down serious money for our top scorer, Andy Booth. Alas, when there is some nifty one-two footwork, there are still too many of the team peering

anxiously into the sky, looking for a non-existent long, high ball. While the opposition is rendered helpless with laughter, someone hoofs it into their net from 70 yards. We're currently in the top six, so it's worked so far, but it won't last.

No, we have already had the home and away defeats by bottom of the league (at the time) Port Vale to concentrate our minds. Even Sheffield United have turned us over at home. It's happening again. We could have been playing Chelsea in the quarter-finals of the FA Cup but, mark my words, it's the magnificent fifth round of the Cup and First Division survival double for us this year.

They'll put three in their own net in the last five minutes

They'll put three in their own net in the last five minutes

They'll put three in their own net in the last five minutes

Jonty busy
sharing the
magic around

am 17 Mar. ab George's Island.
Abstar

There is no middle way for a captain: you either smell as sweet as a Ruud Gullit pass or as foul as a Vinny Jones tackle

As Michael Atherton completes a week in which England's cricketing decline has reached such depths that the entire squad should be fined with an aqualung, he can take comfort from one thing: he's not Richie Richardson. After Thursday's defeat against Kenya, Richardson has achieved the unlikely feat of making Graham Taylor look like a wanted man.

"People in the Caribbean have become immune to disappointment, but this must go down as the worst-ever performance," Michael Holding said after the West Indies showed all the spinal consistency of a caterpillar as they crumbled to the East African part-timers. "I don't know if Richie will go now, but something will have to be done."

Apart from Holding's idiosyncratic analysis of the length of West

Indian disappointment (being the best team in the world for 20 years must get to you after a while), what was interesting about his comments was the suggestion that dropping the pilot is what is required to put the ship back on course.

Indeed as Maurice Odumbe, Kenya's skipper, after apparently single-handedly driving his team to victory, savours the prospect of declaring a national holiday in Kenya, he said after his match-winning efforts, "not today, but on my birthday", this week has provided conclusive evidence that there is no middle way for a captain: you either smell as sweet as a Ruud Gullit pass or as foul as a Vinny Jones tackle.

Memory, inevitably, plays no part in this. The World Cup has

progressed with a growing soundtrack of trumpeting headlines suggesting that Atherton - terse, hang-dog, cool - should be replaced by Dermot Reeve - chipper, spontaneous, passionate - so that even if England lost, they would have the good grace to do so in a sweaty shirt. This campaign has generally been orchestrated by the same voices which recently demanded Atherton's dedication after his match-saving efforts against South Africa. Meanwhile Will Carling, a man reckoned to be so sharp on the principles of leadership he has made a handy living selling his ideas to big business, is judged by many shrewd observers to be past his inspire-by-date. Dean Richards's return, for instance, has been widely hailed as the only chance England have of winning today: at last

Jim White



ON SATURDAY

the team will have someone to inspire them.

In a sense Carling and Atherton, in their manner cerebral rather than gung-ho, are of a kind. According to Brian Moore, Carling's almost

preternatural calm in his team-talks was as liable to enrage as it was to quell nerves. During one international, Moore recalls, with England trailing and only a few minutes left, Carling gathered the team together as the opposition took yet another penalty and told them not to panic: there was plenty of time left. One of the forwards, prone to adopting the Corporal Jones approach to crisis, sought to disagree with his skipper: "We're effing losing 14 effing 8 and this effing tells us not to effing panic" was the gist of his argument. In the event, Moore is happy to accept, England won and Carling was right.

The problem is, that crisis was temporary. It seems from their two teams' recent performances that the Carling/Atherton way of captaincy has little effect if the decline is more

significant (pull your sleeves up and dig for victory appear not to be words in their vocabulary). Particularly if, as they have, you have imposed above you a layer of management which is clearly not up to the job. Even Dermot Reeve's particular brand of up-and-at-em leadership skills would be tested in a dressing-room where morale has been damaged irreparably by Ray Illingworth's treatment of Devon Malcolm and Mark Ramprakash, interjections straight from the Codrington school of team-management. Neither has Carling appeared to thrive under the direction of Jack Rowell, whose idea of team selection is to drop the best performer.

To suggest either manager is entirely responsible for their country's dip in form is to over-simplify, but we

all know that organisations stink from the head down. There is not much someone half-way down the operation (where Carling and Atherton now find themselves) can do to lift those intangible things - morale and goodwill - that keep a creative enterprise afloat if their leaders show such disloyalty to your colleagues. If Atherton and Carling were free to make decisions that matter, instead of being sublimed with sack-handed management, their present predicament would be less threatening.

In the meantime, they can but reflect on the celebratory plaudits that can come a leader's way if he gets it right. How does that version of "Wonderwall" sung by Manchester City fans go again? "And Fanny, you could have had Richard Madeley. But after all, you got Alan Ball."

Wales prepared to take advantage of their hosts

Paddy Power, a prominent Dublin bookmaker and not an expression of Irish fortune, has cleaned up in a big way this season. Of course, he cleans up every year but this time it's a scalp and he is booking his holidays in Bermuda rather than Blackpool. It seems like many moons ago that, when Ireland began their Five Nations campaign Mr Power was almost engulfed by a green tide of optimism.

There is no limit to what Ireland could achieve: Triple Crown, Grand Slam, you name it and the money was on. Victories over Fiji and the United States were the red herrings and the line was also baited with the arrival of new management and a new, New Zealand coaching team. Everybody is still waiting with bated breath.

For today's encounter, which carries the glorious sub-plot of pass the wooden spoon, the green party has run out of revellers. Ireland are 11-10, Wales 5-11. Favourites to score the first try? The Wales' wings Jean Evans and Wayne Proctor. Penalty (sic) tries, according to the Powerchance of shops, do not count as far as having a point is concerned.

For some reason in Ireland,

Tim Glover reports from Dublin on the meeting of this year's under-achievers

everybody precedes a sentence with the word "now", as in "Now, what are we having?" or "Now, that'll be £2.80 for a pint of Guinness...now, that'll be down to inflation."

Now, now is the time for Wales, having stripped the valleys of daffodils yesterday to celebrate St David's Day, to gain a tangible reward for a couple of heartening performances that nevertheless resulted in defeat. They scored two tries against England at Twickenham and could have beaten Scotland in Cardiff. Ireland never looked like beating Scotland in Dublin and need hardly have bothered to take the field against France in Paris, where they conceded seven tries and were rewarded with a penalty try.

Ireland are in a right old pickle and the selectors have made so many changes in such a brief space of time they have almost run out of options. They did not choose wisely for the first match, nor for the second and are now in a position, in rugby terms, of declining to Third World level. Jim Staples, the captain who went off with

concussion against France, is replaced by the 22-year-old Orrell full-back Simon Mason (grandparents from Dublin) and the captaincy has been handed to the scrum-half Niall Hogan. Post-Paris, Ireland have made six changes to personnel and another three positional. Yet the player who had a nightmare at Parc des Princes was Hogan. "We discussed Hogan's position at length," Pat Whelan, the manager, said. "Nobody knows more than Niall Hogan that he had a poor game in Paris in terms of his passing etc."

Hogan, a doctor, has passed his exams and it is the best pass he has made this season. He looked as if he needed an umbrella cord to find his partner David Humphreys in Paris, which was all the more surprising given his form in the World Cup in South Africa last summer. Hogan had an excellent game against Wales in Johannesburg, "helping Ireland to reach the quarter-final. Both countries are barely recognisable from that little domestic squabble at Ellis Park. Wales, who

were quite diabolical that evening, have also changed their coach and the difference is that the selection of Kevin Bowring has resulted in a change of heart as well as personnel.

Bowring, Wales' sixth coach since 1988 and the first full-time appointment, seems to have pulled off the trick of reawakening Wales to its inheritance. The audacious choice of Arwel Thomas at stand-off has changed the complexion of the team from grey to a full-blooded red. It has not paid off yet, but not for the want of trying and while Ireland are desperately searching for the right blend Wales, for only the fifth time in their history, have had an unchanged team for three games in a row.

"We have been encouraged by the way the team has played," Bowring said. "We are building a new side and despite the losses we are making progress in the type of game we want to play. What we are really trying to do is to get the team playing in the traditional Welsh manner which is the fast, fluid and open game I think we play best."

Murray Kidd, the Ireland coach, seemed to be reading Bowring's mind: "Wales look like a team on the up. Their line-out is as good as any in the game. They are winning a lot of possession. They look sharper than they have for years."

About the only sensible move Ireland made against France was in selecting Humphreys. As it happened, he and Hogan barely made contact and last weekend Ireland would not allow Humphreys to play for his club, insisting instead that the half-backs worked on building a rapport in Dublin. Their partnership had got to be better than it was in France but Ireland seem to have lost not only the script but the prompter. They strung together one marvelous move against Scotland and the hero and try-scorer was Peter Clohesy, and look what happened to him.



Left foot forward: Jonah Lomu is in characteristic form for Auckland against Wellington yesterday in the inaugural Super-12 match. His side won 36-28. Photograph: Empics

Double boost for Irish

Ireland twice got the better of Wales yesterday, in A and Under-21 internationals. Tries from Rob Henderson, Anthony Foley and Barry Walsh set up a 25-11 victory at Donnybrook, while the Under-21s won 20-12 at Wicklow Town.

Ireland A, who will be going for the Triple Crown when they meet England A at Richmond in a fortnight, went ahead after 14 minutes, with Henderson scoring the first try. Adrian Davies and Conor O'Shea then exchanged penalties before the No 8 Stuart

Davies scored Wales' sole try, after a tapped penalty, to level the scores. Ireland took a 15-8 lead just before half-time, though, with Foley driving over and Eric Elwood converting. Elwood kicked his second penalty in the 54th minute, something matched by Davies moments later.

Ireland wrapped up the match on the hour as the No 8 Barry Walsh capped an excellent performance with a fine try. Elwood adding the conversion. Ireland clinched the Under-21 Triple Crown in

convincing fashion. The home side went ahead in the first minute, when the stand-off Fergal Campion kicked a penalty, and tries by the left-wing Jan Cunningham and the prop Barry McConnell were both converted by Campion.

The Welsh prop Lee Manning then crossed for a try which the stand-off Shaun Connolly converted, but another penalty goal from Campion sent Ireland in at half-time 20-7 ahead, a lead they held until four minutes from time when Connors went over.

Cautious caution for the Sharks

Basketball
DUNCAN HOOPER

The Sheffield Sharks centre Todd Cautorn, who has played an integral part in the Sharks' season to date, is doubtful for tomorrow's National Cup Final against London Towers. The 6ft 5in American was diagnosed with an unspecified leg ailment on Thursday after training for the past week in severe pain.

"Team medical staff and management have decided to rest the player in the hope that the condition improves. Doctors fear the infection may spread and become even more acute if aggravated by physical activity."

"Losing Todd would be a big blow to our chances of retaining the Cup," the Sharks' general manager, Yuri Matschenko, said. "As it stands right now we have to prepare as though he will not be playing on Sunday."

The Sharks will, however, enjoy a large and vocal support in the Sheffield Arena. "Forget neutral," the London coach, Kevin Cadle, said. "This is an away game for us and a home game for Sheffield, no question. Whatever the crowd, they get in there tomorrow, 90 per cent of them will be against us."

The Sharks attracted 6,000 fans to Sheffield Arena for last Sunday's Budweiser League game.

TODAY'S
NUMBER
1

The counties who applied to stage football's 1999 women's World Cup. Although Australia and Chile expressed interest, the deadline passed with only the United States - winners in 1991 - having submitted a bid.

Tickets set to sell for £1,000

Edinburgh is in the grip of rugby fever, with £22 tickets for this afternoon's Scotland against England Calcutta Cup match set to fetch up to £1,000 on the black market.

A total of £1m could be riding on the outcome, with bookmakers William Hill, who have England 4-5 favourites and Scotland even, having taken a £5,000 bet on England.

Paul Austin of Ladbrokes, who cannot separate the teams at 10-11, said: "We estimate that £1m will be wagered on the game, making it the biggest domestic rugby match in history for the betting industry."

IRELAND v WALES			
at Lansdowne Road, Dublin			
S. Mason	Orrell	24 J. Thomas	U. Neil
S. George	Both	24 J. Evans	U. Neil
J. Fife	Bolton	23 N. Davies	U. Neil
A. Fife	C. Hogg	23 N. Davies	U. Neil
N. Wiggins	Blackrock College	11 W. Proctor	U. Neil
D. Humphreys	London Irish	10 A. Thomas	U. Neil
N. Hogan	Leinster College (capt)	9 R. Howley	U. Neil
N. Poplewell	Newcastle	1 A. Jones	U. Neil
A. Clarke	Northampton	2 J. Humphreys	U. Neil
P. Wallace	Blackrock College	3 J. Davies	U. Neil
G. Folger	Constitution	4 G. O'Leary	U. Neil
J. Davidson	Dungannon	5 D. Jones	U. Neil
D. Conboy	Constitution	6 E. Lewis	U. Neil
V. Costello	St Mary's College	7 H. Taylor	U. Neil
D. McBride	Wexford	7 G. Jones	U. Neil
Replacements: 18 N. McMillan (Dundee), 17 P. Butler (Cardiff), 16 A. Moore (Cardiff), 15 P. Jones (Cardiff), 14 P. Jones (Cardiff), 13 P. Jones (Cardiff), 12 P. Jones (Cardiff), 11 P. Jones (Cardiff), 10 P. Jones (Cardiff), 9 P. Jones (Cardiff), 8 P. Jones (Cardiff), 7 P. Jones (Cardiff), 6 P. Jones (Cardiff), 5 P. Jones (Cardiff), 4 P. Jones (Cardiff), 3 P. Jones (Cardiff), 2 P. Jones (Cardiff), 1 P. Jones (Cardiff).			
Referee: D. M. Jones (France). Kick-off: 3.30 (BBC Wales & Northern Ireland).			

Faldo makes a slow start

Golf

Nick Faldo opened his defence of the Dorset Ryder Open in Miami with a level-par first round of 72. The former world No 1 had the same score as Sandy Lyle, on a day when 33 players were unable to complete their round because of a delay to the start of play caused by fog.

Jesper Parnevik, runner-up in the 1994 Open, headed the European challenge with 68. The Swede was five shots off the lead, held by former US Open champion Lee Janzen.

The American reeled off six consecutive birdies on his way to a nine-under-par 63 to take a one-stroke lead over his compatriot Michael Bradley. Curt Bryna was a further shot back,

with Corey Pavin among a group three strokes behind Janzen. Greg Norman, twice a winner of this event, trailed by four shots. Janzen had a chance to match the course record of 62, but missed an eagle putt from less than three feet at the par-five 17th.

It was not a good day for some of the game's biggest names, including Fred Couples who opened with a three-over-par 75 and John Daly who recorded a five-over-par 77. Winds gusting up to 60mph prevented any play in the second round of the Catalan Open at Bonmont, Spain, yesterday. The forecast is for conditions to improve by midday today and that could mean the tournament is reduced to 54 holes.

Friendly option ruled out

Rugby League

Super League clubs in Australia have called off plans for exhibition matches which they had hoped to stage in the vacuum left by the legal black on their competition starting this weekend, writes Dave Rodd.

The planned start of Super League was wrecked by a court judgment on Tuesday, but some clubs, including the leading lights, Brisbane and Canberra, had set up high-profile friendlies instead. But Super League's backers, News Ltd, have urged the players not to take part before they and the Australian Rugby League go back to court next Wednesday, while Brisbane City

Council was also warned that it could be in contempt of court if it provided a venue for the Brisbane against Canberra game.

The Rugby League in Britain has begun talks with the BBC over how the Challenge Cup can be fitted into future summer seasons.

Sheffield Eagles have decided that they are to leave their home at the Don Valley Stadium to ground-share with Sheffield United at Bramall Lane.

Quotes of the week

"Will someone remove this burrito, please?" said Michael Atherton, England captain, to Pakistan journalist.

"We couldn't beat a team of Eskimos," said the former England captain on England's performance in the World Cup.

"The West Indies are not the only team to beat your side is very special," Maurice Odumbe, the Kenyan captain, after his team played off the biggest upset in the history of cricket.

"I can't believe it. I am going to have to watch it again on TV to make sure it's real," said Michael Holding on his performance in the World Cup.

"This was a West Indian team in name but not in spirit," said Michael Holding, the former West Indian test bowler.

"I would be happy to stand in a match looking like a clown," said the Jamaican umpire who was involved in a match between England and Sri Lanka at the World Cup at the same venue.

"Any suspicious person not stopping at a security check will be shot," said a Pakistani soldier official describing crowd control methods being employed in the World Cup.

"Aspirin is from Latin America - that's the way they are," said Kevin Richardson, the New Zealand manager, after his team's behaviour during the Manchester derby last Sunday.

"We will not keep him here by force. But this is their. Russia always engaged in theft. Not just players and not just in sport. All forms of theft," said Valery Borzov, the head of Ukraine's National Olympic Committee, reacts to the decision of Andrei Medvedev, the Ukrainian tennis player, to play for Russia at the Olympics.

"The last time Bruno fought Tyson in 1989 I had a bet on Frank, but I had a bet on Mike Tyson sitting at the table," said former world champion John H. Stracey on Frank Bruno's chances of retaining his world heavyweight title by beating Mike Tyson on 16 March.

Athletics

Britain have lost another medal hope for next year's European Indoor Championships in Stockholm, Mark Hyton decided today not to risk a grain strain and withdrew from the 400m metres. The 25-year-old European junior champion follows fellow 400m runner Melanie Neef and hurdler Tony Jarrett out of the team named on Wednesday. John Regis and the high jumper Steve Smith turned down places, while the championships never featured in the plans of Linnor Christie, Colin Jackson or Sally Gunnell. Hyton takes over from Hyton in the squad.

Badminton

SWISS OPEN (Badminton) Singles third round: 1. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 2. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 3. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 4. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 5. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 6. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 7. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 8. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 9. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 10. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 11. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 12. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 13. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 14. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 15. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 16. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 17. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 18. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 19. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 20. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 21. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 22. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 23. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 24. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 25. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 26. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 27. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 28. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 29. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 30. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 31. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 32. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 33. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 34. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 35. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 36. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 37. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 38. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 39. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 40. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 41. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 42. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 43. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 44. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 45. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 46. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 47. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 48. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 49. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 50. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 51. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 52. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 53. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 54. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 55. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 56. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 57. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 58. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 59. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 60. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 61. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 62. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 63. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 64. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 65. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 66. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 67. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 68. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 69. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 70. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 71. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 72. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 73. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 74. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 75. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 76. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 77. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 78. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 79. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 80. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 81. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 82. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 83. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 84. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 85. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 86. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 87. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 88. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 89. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 90. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 91. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 92. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 93. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 94. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 95. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 96. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 97. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 98. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 99. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 100. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 101. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 102. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 103. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 104. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 105. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 106. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 107. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 108. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 109. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 110. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 111. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 112. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 113. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 114. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 115. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 116. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 117. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 118. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 119. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 120. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 121. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 122. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 123. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 124. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 125. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 126. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 127. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 128. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 129. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 130. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 131. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 132. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 133. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 134. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 135. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 136. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 137. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 138. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 139. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 140. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 141. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 142. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 143. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 144. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 145. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 146. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 147. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 148. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 149. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 150. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 151. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 152. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 153. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 154. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 155. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 156. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 157. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 158. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 159. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 160. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 161. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 162. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 163. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 164. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 165. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 166. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 167. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 168. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 169. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 170. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 171. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 172. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 173. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 174. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 175. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 176. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 177. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 178. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 179. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 180. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 181. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 182. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 183. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 184. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 185. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 186. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 187. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 188. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 189. S. J. 15-10, 15-10; 190. S. J. 15-1

SPORT

ONE OF FOOTBALL'S GOOD GUYS

Glenn Moore on Peter Beardsley, Newcastle's smiling survivor Page 24

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP: Scottish nation poised for its team to right past slights and win the Grand Slam

Burden of history confronts England

Rugby Union

STEVE BALE
reports from Edinburgh

To be an England rugby player here in Scotland just now is to appreciate the weight of a history that has nothing to do with a 125-year-old rugby rivalry and not that much to do either with the Scots' brave tilt at a fourth Grand Slam. Rather, we are talking about the baggage of centuries.

Insensitive as it may seem to say so, this afternoon's climactic Five Nations match between Roh Wainwright's and Will Curling's teams can quite clearly be seen as the modern, marginally more benign equivalent of Charles Edward Stuart and the Duke of Cumberland. Why, no sooner had I boarded my taxi yesterday than the driver was going on about 1745.

"I think it will make the Scottish nation very happy if we win," Wainwright understated. "But I'm not sure if there are any political implications." This is an appropriately diplomatic line from an officer (and doctor) in the British army but he has to be kidding.

Now that he is here, Jack Rowell really knows what he means when he laments how difficult such matches are. "They're about more than rugby" is one of the manager's repeated lines - are for England. Not so much international matches as international incidents, they can be made to make up for the slights, real or imagined, of the ages.

So it is undeniably tense in Edinburgh and England's prospects depend on how creatively they use that tension. This has been the difference between their play and that of Scotland this season. The Scots have flourished specifically by playing rugby on the very edge, where the risks are greatest. The English have been absolutely

unable to move beyond the mundane even when the risks are lowest.

With the recall of Dean Richards, the risks become lower still and, whether the world's most-capped No 8 knows it or not, he has in effect been handed personal responsibility for making England perform coherently and as a team.

Not that one Englishman can possibly hold England's fate even in hands as large as Richards', since this season's shortsavings have been general as well as specific. Man for man, a persuasive case could be stated in favour of most of the England players over their Scottish counterparts but the action about the whole adding up to more than the sum of its parts can be applied only to the Scots.

That said, Jim Telfer declines to accept the notion that his team's victories over Ireland, France and Wales should make them favourites, the cryptic Scottish manager preferring to concentrate on Scotland's six consecutive defeats by England since 1990. It is a ploy: the main task this week for Richard Cox, the Scots' team psychologist, has been not to build the players up but to deal with the phenomenal anticipation of their own populace.

England have also summoned their "Shriak", as they call him, to Edinburgh, though Austin Swain's role has to be more about dispelling anxiety. Anyway, the only psychology Dean Richards needs is the sight of a dark-blue jersey: injured at the time of the 1990 Grand Slam misadventure, he has never lost to the Scots.

If England perform collectively in accordance with their



Throwing in their lot: Scotland's forwards finish their match preparation with some line-out work yesterday

Photograph: David Ashdown

individual abilities, it is safe to predict Richards will extend his run to seven matches - and, given his apparent influence on others as well as his own contribution, it is more likely eventually than it would have been without him. But it will remain a heavy conditional until we see evidence that the English players' diminished confidence is at last returning.

Indeed, if Richards is to be the man to effect this change, England will have to hope they find a way to deconstruct the Scots, because not withstanding his re-

newed status as rugby superman the pack leader's impact on a game can be decisively reduced when the opposition succeed in pulling England all over field.

This was demonstrated not only by the World Cup semi-final against New Zealand that caused Richards' subsequent exclusion but also by a less well-remembered antipodean Test, against Australia in Sydney in 1991, when England had also been done for pace. Remarkably, it was the last time Richards had been on a losing England side before that All Blacks match.

So Richards, and by extension England, are bound to struggle if Scotland gain an exploitable share of possession, and that in turn places the onus on Garath

Archer, the new England lock, to secure the steady supply the discarded Martin Bayfield failed to secure against France and Wales. However, prodigious Archer's talent, it is asking a lot, quite possibly too much.

Especially, that is, when you are confronted on your debut not only with 15 opponents nor even the vast majority among 67,000 spectators. The Bruce, the latest Scottish blockbuster with an anti-English theme, premiered in Aberdeen last night and comes to Edinburgh tonight, and Scots would like to see it as a perfectly timed metaphor for Murrayfield. It was Robert the Bruce who fought the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314 and Scotland got a result in that one, too.

SCOTLAND v ENGLAND			
at Murrayfield			
R. Shepherd	15	M. Catt	15
C. Joiner	16	J. Stirling	16
S. Hastings	17	W. Carling	17
J. Jardine	18	J. Guscott	18
M. Dods	19	R. Underwood	19
G. Townsend	20	P. Jones	20
B. Redpath	21	P. Jones	21
D. Hilton	22	P. Jones	22
K. McKenna	23	P. Jones	23
E. Wright	24	P. Jones	24
S. Campbell	25	P. Jones	25
G. Well	26	P. Jones	26
R. Wainwright	27	P. Jones	27
F. Peters	28	P. Jones	28
I. Smith	29	P. Jones	29

Richardson set to pay for West Indies 'shame'

Cricket

TONY COZIER
reports from Bridgetown, Barbados

Two daily newspapers, the *Nation* and the *Advocate*, found the same damning word for their sizeable front-page headlines yesterday. "Shame", they agreed, best summed up the West Indies loss to Kenya in the World Cup in India on Thursday. Callers who inundated radio phone-in programmes found generally

more colourful adjectives to express their anger at the team's performance and the *Trinidad Express* saw the defeat by one of the minnows of world cricket, in their first international tournament, as no less than "a surrender of West Indian manhood".

At the coincidental meeting of heads of government in Guyana, Prime Minister Edson James of Dominica insisted that the whole state of West Indies' cricket be urgently added to the pressing political items on the agenda.

As the one sport at which the small former British colonies have excelled and the only one

in which they compete as a single team, cricket is followed with a passionate zeal throughout the English-speaking Caribbean.

An entire generation has grown up basking in the reflected glory of triumphs in the first two World Cups and 15 years of invincibility in Test cricket that only ended last May with defeat in a home series by Australia.

Since then the decline has been steady, with reversals in one-day tournaments in England, Sharjah and Australia and the people, and the players, have found it difficult coming to terms with the shift in fortunes.

Humiliation by a bunch of weekend club cricketers from a country with no background in the game has left those who stayed through the night to watch the live TV coverage disbelieving and disgruntled - and almost universally calling for the head of the captain, Richie Richardson.

Richardson, who succeeded Viv Richards in 1991, has come under heavy criticism as his team has faltered; this could be the last straw. Former players, Richards among them, have blamed his inability to check the slide and the vast vocal majority have long demanded his replacement.

The calls have now become more strident and it is difficult to imagine the 33-year-old Antiguan surviving Tuesday's meeting of the West Indies Cricket Board of Control that will choose the captain for the home series against New Zealand that immediately follows the World Cup.

"Richie Richardson is the man who must ultimately pay the price and his resignation must now be properly offered to the Board in a timely manner," the *Barbados Nation* wrote in its editorial yesterday.

Richardson has made it plain, yet again, that he intends

to "hang in there" so that he will have to be pushed.

Brian Lara has been groomed for the position since he was a teenager but recent withdrawals from the team revealed a temperamental side likely to deter those who decide the issue. A more logical choice, albeit in the short term, is Courtney Walsh, the wily 33-year-old fast bowler, who captains Gloucestershire. But whoever leads the team in future, the day Kenya defeated the West Indies will always be remembered with indignation in this part of the world.

World Cup cricket, page 25

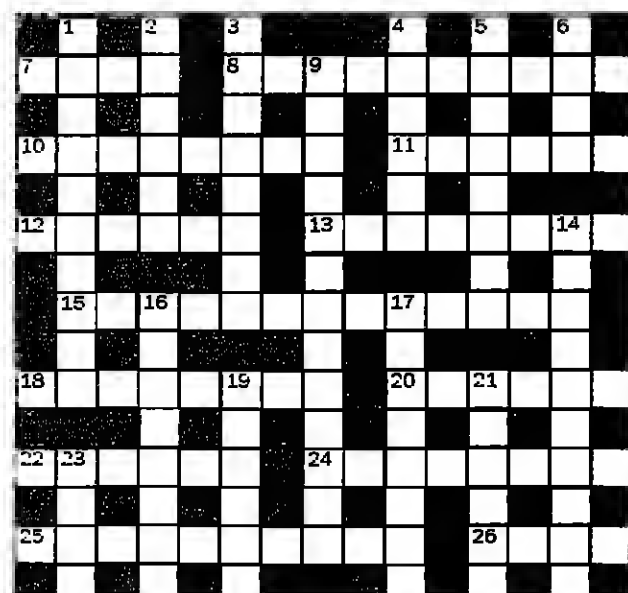
THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 2924, Saturday 2 March

By Mass

ACROSS

DOWN



- 7 Union strike over nothing (4)
8 One in major British store - one involved with orders? (10)
10 Adult inside, reportedly a yes-man (8)
11 Code's last short cipher - and that's it (6)
12 Skip? I stick around North (6)
13 Perturb one on the bench (8)
15 Norman language? (5,6)
18 End lyric after pounding drum (8)
20 Note sharp character outside breaking in (6)
22 Magic circles led by goon (6)
24 In report, new man I recommend (8)
25 I'm inhibited without money, that's the snag (10)
26 A whip to make you yield (4)

- 1 It helps one get through income, like wages rashly invested (10)
2 Blade's jabbed in also (6)
3 Animals with trunks feeding on stunted plant (8)
4 A former queen's outspoken devotee? (6)
5 Led Spade finally, made points (about last in contract) (8)
6 Time-consuming, finding name in record (4)
9 One certainly gets around (11)
14 Bonding of layers needs paste, I state (10)
16 Control sound of pet animal (8)
17 Friendly hint (8)
19 Call to quit the bar is heard (4,2)
21 Intimidate hridge players in club (6)
23 Some shockers in the navy? (4)

Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution

1. ITALANDERKUR
2. EIGHTOFF
3. ACCESSIONUNFI
4. LEPIANAI
5. KAPUTARMAGILLO
6. TITITLIT
7. CATIVETECLINIC
8. GVSILRON
9. SHELTERCUPCAKE
10. TIRAHANM
11. TINGCOMMUNE
12. KRAMSQUIT
13. KEBABBLUPETER
14. SILUREARE
15. UNDERSTANDING

1. SADDLE
2. GOGS
3. HIPPOGRATICOAT
4. SURGEPRESENTER
5. AMBITIOUSSETSE
6. ER
7. INPARI
8. MORTAL
9. ATSTIA
10. G
11. VESICULARFLORA
12. ATTLER
13. TROUBLESHOOTING
14. ARLRYA
15. LIEN

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Larousse Dictionary of Literary Characters. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P.O. Box 2018, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: Mrs G.J. Lipovits, Lichfield; Mr R. Davies, Newport; Roy Smith, Warrington; Eric Road, Warley; Pamela Playle-Mitchell, Lancaster.

Injured top jockeys to miss Cheltenham

Racing

GREG WOOD

Norman Williamson and Adrian Maguire, two of the country's top jump jockeys, will miss the Cheltenham Festival after suffering injuries yesterday. Williamson dislocated his right shoulder - his third serious injury in an ill-starred season - on the gallops yesterday morning, while Maguire broke his right collar-bone in a fall at Newbury a few hours later.

Maguire, who also missed last year's Festival following the death of his mother, was due to partner Viking Flagship and Zahadi, favourites for the Champion Chase and Triumph Hurdle respectively, at the three-day meeting which opens a week on Tuesday.

Williamson, who completed the Gold Cup/Champion Hurdle double on Master Oats and Alderbrook 12 months ago, would have gone to Cheltenham with every chance of doing so again.

Williamson's shoulder had previously been dislocated in a fall at Newbury three weeks ago during his first ride in Britain since breaking his leg at Sedgfield in October. The shoulder must now be operated on and

he seems sure to miss the remainder of the season. Maguire, though, will hope to return in time for the Grand National meeting at Aintree, which begins on 28 March.

"He will be sent home with painkillers and vigorous physiotherapy," Dr Michael Turner, the Jockey Club's chief medical officer, said. "These things usually take 21 days. It depends on the break."

Maguire's injury occurred at the water jump when his mount, Smiling Chief, slipped on landing and fired him into the turf as well as bringing down two following horses. He lay on the ground for several minutes before being helped to an ambulance, grasping his shoulder. At the Princess Margaret Hospital in Swindon, X-rays confirmed that his collar-bone was broken.

With 10 days to go to the festival, the search for replacements began immediately. Richard Dunnwoody, the champion jockey may come in for the ride on Alderbrook; if other commitments permit, while Charlie Swan is expected to take over on Viking Flagship, Jamie Osborne is likely to partner Master Oats, while Tony McCoy, Dunnwoody's heir apparent, may also pick up some prime rides.

Racing, page 23



TORONTO WITH NIAGARA

BA 747 from Heathrow to Toronto on 23 May, 11 Aug, 30 Aug or 14 Sep. • five nights at the deluxe Sheraton • city tour • harbour cruise • Niagara with helicopter • Phantom of the Opera • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,999 or £2,999 with O.E. and QE2 cruise to New York

QE2 AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Orient-Express to Southampton on 8 May • five night QE2 cruise to Barcelona via Ibiza and Marseille • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,499
Concorde supersonic to Brussels on 21 June • two night QE2 cruise to Southampton via Le Havre (for Paris) • Orient-Express to Victoria £1,099
Concorde supersonic to Reykjavik on 8 July • nine night QE2 Land of the Midnight Sun cruise to the Norwegian Fjords • Orient-Express from Southampton to Victoria £2,499

ORIANA AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Concorde to Marrakesh on 28 July • six night Oriana cruise from Casablanca via Praia da Rocha, Lisbon and La Coruna • Orient-Express from Southampton £1,999
Orient-Express to Southampton on 31 Aug • six night Oriana cruise to Monte Carlo via Gibraltar and Livorno (for Florence) • Concorde from Nice to Heathrow £1,999

BRUNO v. TYSON

Fly from Gatwick or Luton to Las Vegas on 11 March • seven nights at first class hotel • optional tours • reserved seat £400 or £900 Ringside

For our full colour brochure, please telephone 0181-992 6991 or write to SUPERLATIVE TRAVEL, 43, Woodhurst Road, London, W3 6SS